

BITE THE

HAND THAT

FEEDS THE

POISONED

FOOD

DIY. HARDCOREPUNK
CRUST-THRASH-ANARCHO

POLITICAL//PERSONAL WRITINGS
ZINE/RECORD REVIEWS

ISSUE

#3

The idea for this issue of the zine started when Eric & I decided to do a split issue cos we were both into each others' zines and had been friends for quite a while. We discussed doing something to separate it from the usual split-zine fare, e.g. two half-zines that have nothing to do with each other. We discussed different themes to write on, chose a few, and decided to try to lay it out in such a way that we would each lay out half of the other person's stuff & half of our own, each do a cover, put it all together (this we do tomorrow when I'm back in Ireland) and also do a split poster to go with it.

Hopefully the finished zine will meet our expectations, and regardless, I'm still totally excited and honoured to do this split with Eric. He's a perfect example of a rare kind of person; the kind of people who keep me interested in and passionate about punk & this whole environment. Kind, friendly, dedicated, not interested in shit-talking, political, uncompromising & PUNK AS FUCK!!

I first met Eric 6 or 7 years ago at an Oi Polloi gig; I was trying to sell copies of the zine I did at the time to people and remember getting a lot of shit off the "punk" punx because I was wearing a Bad Religion shirt. So I asked Eric, pale-spikes & grubby smelly clothes, if he wanted a copy, so we traded, for a now-ancient issue of Cotton Fist (a very different zine back then!). I've forgotten what was in the zine, but what I

remember is how ^{he} friendly and kind to the kids from the fucking bogs everyone else was too cool for. Since getting to know him well & becoming good friends with him over the last 4 years,



times you can bang your head off a brick wall before one of them breaks, and that's what it ended up feeling like after 6 or 7 years of putting on gigs, playing in bands, putting out records, booking tours, writing zines, doing distros, and so on (the brick wall didn't break).

As much as, and possibly more so than the music, are the people I've met here and how kind, friendly, welcoming and inclusive they've been to me. Thank you, so much, to all of you who've made an effort to get to know me, to think of & include me in the things you do, to try to speak & teach Danish to



me. You've made it impossible for me to leave. Many of these

people I've met through all that goes on in & around Ungdomshuset, the autonomous centre here where which provides a space for gigs, meetings, a cinema, bar, screen-printing, rehearsal spaces, weekly communal meals and a lot more (it's where the

K-Town Festival happens each year, which many of you may be familiar with). It's under serious threat of eviction at the beginning of next year (2006), another reason for me to stay. It makes me feel so fuckin' angry that in this huge city, all we ask is to have this one house, and still we are denied. Meeting & becoming friends with the people whose lives are largely centred around Ungdomshuset, seeing

how this space has given them the freedom to grow into the people they are, has affected me more than any other issue or struggle in my life. If this house is lost, the heart will be torn from this city. So we hope for your support now and when the time comes (www.ungeren.dk).



Time to shut up and finish this off. Eric & I decided not to bother putting our names with each piece - get in touch if you want to know who wrote each individual piece. Thanks to all who've traded with me & helped distribute the previous issue of the zine. Thanks to Masamune Shirou, Katsuhito Ofemo, Frank Miller & Ryoichi Ikegami for the artwork I stole to use as backgrounds. Thanks to all my friends from Ireland & elsewhere who've stayed in touch & come to visit me.

Most of all, thanks to all the punx who continue to live their lives uncompromisingly in the face of this cannibal fucking society, and continue to give me the inspiration to do the same. **RADICAL PUNX NEVER DIE - UP THE FUCKIN PUNX!!**



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Denmark.

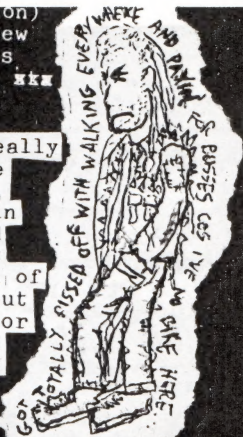
razethestray@hotmail.com

constructed to the sounds of:

STATE OF FEAR/ABANDON/INEPSY/
SEPULTURA/UNKIND/SACRILEGE/JESU/
ENTOMBED/DECREPIT/ARMAGEDDA/
NEUROSIS/WORLD BURNS TO DEATH/
ATROCIOUS MADNESS/IMMORTAL/
BASTARD/MARTYRDOOD/NAG-CLAR/
THE DAGDA/AMEBIX/WARCRY/
SKITSICKERS/HIS HERO IS GONE/
WOLFPACK/ANTI-CIMEX/NAPALM DEATH

for 3 weeks around Christmas. (via London) Spent a few days in London, met friends, saw Neurosis play, checked out the 56a Infoshop and stayed with some real nice people in their squat in Brixton.

In ways it was weird and also really nice to be back in Ireland. It was the longest I'd been away, over 6 months, and I really hadn't missed the place in the slightest. I had, however, missed all my friends an awful lot and it was seeing & hanging out with all of them which was the best thing about being back there. I spent maybe 4 or 5 days staying at my mum's place, a week or so at different friends' places around Dublin and then a week at Eoin & Donal's parents place in Roscommon, where we grew up.

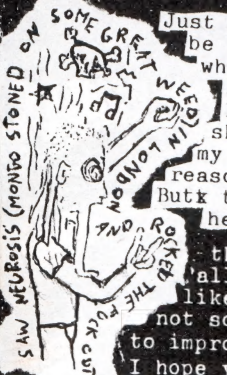


It was really cool staying there, myself and E & D have been best friends for about 10 years now and living here away from them has totally made me realise how important they are to me...we just played a load of computer games, drank & smoked a load, we just had such a good time hanging out that we weren't bothered going to the pub or anything. It was cool to see all my old friends from where I grew up too. We went to Galway with them for new years and had a mental time on LSD.



I spent so much fucking time on busses aswell, not having a bike in Dublin, such a fuckin pain in the arse. Whereas all of my friends and most things going on here in Copenhagen are all within about 2km sq. of each other, everyone's totally spread out in Dublin.

3 weeks seemed way too short a time to be there, I didn't have nearly as much time as I'd have liked to hang out with people and I felt really sad when I was getting my flight back here. Then the minute I got back out on the streets here I had this overwhelming sense of relief, just how uncomfortable and threatened I feel in Dublin and Ireland in general. Just totally uneasy and watching my back all the time. I got so many stupid comments and insults just walking around that I'd never get here.



Just made me feel really glad to be back here and recall exactly why I'd so badly wanted to get away from Ireland and move here. I really couldn't give 2 shits about the place, it's just my friends there that give me any reason to think of ever going back. But then I've got many more friends here than there already.

I got the idea for the drawings and all with this from cool zines, like Snakepit & Morgenmuffel, I'm not so great at drawing but I want to improve and do more stuff like this so I hope you can excuse my lack of skills!



SO JUST GIVE ME THE GENERAL BACKGROUND, HISTORY, MEMBERS, RELEASES?

Sam: INEPSY started in 1999 or 2000, I don't remember, with different members. Me and ~~Chany~~ Chany wanted to play in a band that would be the answer of all our influences...being bored as hell of crustcore, we wanted to play more in the vein of oldschool punk-hardcore bands like G.B.H., VARUKERS, DISCHARGE...and some oldschool crust and

speed metal bands like SACRILEGE, HELLBASTARD, KREATOR, DESTRUCTION. But we like a lot of post-punk ~~bands~~ and rocknroll bands like RADIO BIRDMAN so we tried to mix all this stuff together and it made INEPSY. We lost band members to drugs till we found a solid line-up with JP on bass and Steve Benett on second guitar.

WHAT ABOUT SPACES FOR PUNK? IS THERE A LOT GOING ON FOR PUNKS TO BE INVOLVED IN, PLACES FOR THEM TO GO? ANY GOOD BANDS, LABELS, ZINES FROM AROUND THERE? IS THERE MUCH GOING ON IN THE WAY OF AUTONOMOUS SPACES? SQUATS, FOOD NOT BOMBS, RADICAL BOOKSTORES ETC? WHAT'S A GOOD PLACE FOR A PUNK TO GO IN MONTREAL IF THEY'RE NEW TO THE CITY AND DON'T KNOW SHIT?

Steve: About punk spaces, we live in a big warehouse called the LOUD HOUSE that we do shows in, we've been living here for 5 years, I've booked a lot of shows here, but right now we're taking a break 'cos I had problems with the city and the cops, but I will start doing shows in the fall. For squats there is no such thing as squats here in Montreal, they tried 2 years ago and it lasted about a month. So we can't squat. But we have Welfare cheques so that pays our rent. Radical bookstores, we have an anarchist book store called Librarie Alternative located downtown on St.Laurents street. As for bands, there's some good bands to check out -C.C.S.S. (members of INEPSY), AFTER THE BOMBS (ex-HELLBOUND), BALLAST, BORN DEAD ICONS, COMPLEX COMPLICATION (members of BDI), WALK ASIDE, THE UNCIVILISED, THE RUFFIANS, MANIC MANON AND THE



WHAT'S IT LIKE LIVING IN MONTREAL.

DO YOU GET SHIT FROM PEOPLE ON THE STREETS FOR LOOKING PUNK OR DO YOU FEEL THREATENED? IS THERE A LOT OF VIOLENCE? IS IT THE KIND OF PLACE THAT PUNKS MOVE TO OR THAT THEY TRY TO GET AWAY FROM?

Steve: Living in Montreal is like paradise, for punks. Walking on the street with charged hair, people don't give a fuck or they get ~~fright~~ frightened. Montreal is really not violent, the only violence we see is the violence we do. But we are not that violent but we like to

fuck shit up sometimes! Most of the punks in Montreal are from all over the country even some from the USA, everyone that comes to ~~Montreal~~ Montreal wants to move here, why? Because its punk paradise, big punk scene.

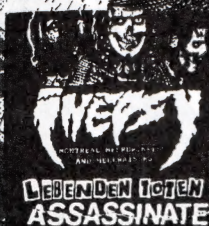
So when you started the band did you intend for it to sound like it does or did it just happen? I've just heard one track off the new CITY/WEAPONS LP, is the progression in your style a by-product of improving ~~you~~ at your instruments or did you always strive to sound like this? Any idea of what we should expect from new material after this LP? ~~WEEEEEEEE~~

Sam: When we first started we wanted to sound exactly how we do...we've seen an evolution since the first 7" SEE YOU IN HELL by the quality of the recording sound...the first stuff is more raw but the composition is similar to ROCKNROLL BABYLON and most of the songs on CITY/WEAPONS. I think that we've squashed all the juice out of

this (d-beat & rocknroll) style on these 3 releases...we haven't composed any new songs up to now but if we do, we want to go more in a punk rock direction like the song BREAK THE CHAINS on CITY/WEAPONS and spend more time to work on good & catchy backing vocals.

HOW LONG HAVE YOU EACH BEEN INVOLVED WITH PUNK? HOW DID YOU GET INTO PUNK IN THE FIRST PLACE? WHAT MOTIVATES YOU TO STAY INVOLVED ~~IN THE~~ & INSPIRED?

Steve: I've been involved in punk for maybe 17 years now, and why? I don't even know myself, hahah....for real cos we like it, we like ~~the way~~ the way of life of punk I guess, we don't know anything else.





WHO'S NEXT?

Steve: YOU ARE.

IS IT ONE OF YOU WHO DOES THE ARTWORK??

Steve: Chany does all the artwork.

WHAT MAKES YOU WANNA PUT A GUN TO YOUR OWN HEAD? WHAT MAKES YOU FEEL LIKE EVERYTHING'S FUCKIN' GREAT AND YOU'RE GONNA EXPLODE?

Sam: We don't have any suicidal tendencies we are more the type of guys who would shoot our oppressors instead of blowing our own heads

off... Working for money can be really annoying sometimes but we really like to be on tour and I think we really feel free when we can play our music behind different crowds of punx.

WHAT \$5 CANADIAN BANDS PAST OR PRESENT WOULD YOU HAVE PEOPLE LISTEN TO?

Sam: My Canada top 5 is GENETIC CONTROL, SLAUGHTER, UNRULED, DAYGLO ABORTIONS, NORTHERN VULTURE.

Steve: My top 5 in Canada is THE SUBHUMANS, FORGOTTEN REBELS, D.O.A., DAYGLO ABORTIONS, THE VILETONES.

IS IT AS DIFFICULT TO GET INTO OR LIVE IN CANADA AS IT IS IN THE U.S.?

Steve: Yes its hard both ways, borders are really fucked up, a lot of bands from the U.S.A. always have problems coming to Canada. I always do a fake recording contract so they can cross easier, the same for

Canadian bands going to the U.S.A.

discloses
BETHOVEN

SPLIT 7"



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KANGNAVE-PUMPING
D-TAKT DISORDER
BY BLX CITY PUNKERS!

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Plague Bearer

II SKITKIDS

"Skitfucked by the state" LP
Blazing Swedish raw punk käng fueled
with loads of guitar leads and distortion

III MARTYRDÖD

"s/t" LP (benefit for the ABC)
Downtuned Swedish d-beat black metal ^{crust}

V BESTHÖVEN

"Just another warsong" 7"
D-beat horrorcore crust made in Brasil

VI MARERIDT

"Här börjar helvetet" demo
Distorted Swedish/Danish raw punk
mangel onslaught

VII DISCLOSE/BESTHÖVEN

Split 7"
Japanese and Brazilian D-beat madness

IX GASMASK TERRÖR

"s/t" 7"
Kängnäve pumpin d-takt disorder
by these Bordeaux City punkers

Up next:

SCUMBRIGADE LP repress

MARERIDT/

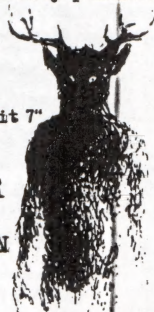
PEACEFUL COLLAPSE split 7"

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Same Living your everyday life is
way easier in Canda than the USA.

first of all we don't have that many
scary gangs to stab you for 5.
dollars. I mean, by having social
security for the poor it ~~change~~
changes the atmosphere of the big
cities...second, I don't feel as
free in U.S.A. as I do here Canada,
their population is scared of
everything and when people are
scared they are dangerous...finally
we don't have George W Bush as a
pressident hahahahah!!

WHATS NEXT FOR THE BAND? I HEAR YOU'LL BE
IN EUROPE TOWARDS THE END OF THE YEAR?

Steve: Yes if nobody dies till then we should be in Europe in
September or October.



I thought that as part of this zine it'd be good to have an interview with some women from outside of Ireland who live, there & are involved in the punk scene, so as to contrast their previous experiences with what they'd experienced since moving to Ireland. Also with an Irish woman involved in the punk scene for quite a while, as a further contrast. Each of them are involved in various ways, through bands, zines, collectives, etc in the Irish punk scene. Kylie added her own answers/comments in response to the rest of the already transcribed interview, which took place in the Phibsboro Chateaux de Crust, a few days before

Crustmas 2004...

So first, what's your name, where are you from, how long have you been in Ireland?

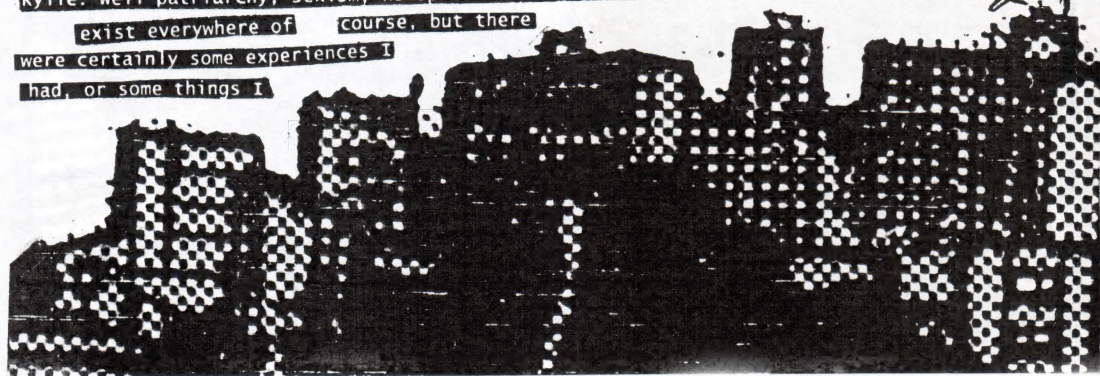
Clodagh: I'm Clodagh, I'm from Dublin, I've always lived here.

Tamarack: My name is Tamarack, I'm from western Canada, I've been here all-in-all for about two years.

Dayana: I'm Dayana, I'm from Brazil and I've been here for 1 year and 5 months.

So have you experienced much sexism in Irish society in general?

Kylie: well patriarchy, sexism, homophobia and transphobia exist everywhere of course, but there were certainly some experiences I had, or some things I



... seemed quite particular to Ireland. I mean, obviously it's a very Catholic country, and this seems to be reflected pretty strongly in repressed attitudes towards sexuality and gender. Also queer visibility and radical sexual politics was well, not very visible, it felt like a huge silence, something that was really obviously missing both in general Irish society and in the punk/anarchist/leftwing/general ratbag community (although of course I do

understand some of the reasons for why that is). And the kind of sexism I noticed or experienced was the kind that is often hard to call people on, I'm talking about that Irish humour! You know, someone (probably a friend) saying something incredibly sexist but in a "humorous" manner with a smile on their face, so it makes it a lot harder to call them on their shit than if it was obviously malicious and from a stranger on the street. I was reading a cultural studies

book that made the point that if you went from Australia to say, Japan or India, then you would totally be preparing yourself for cultural differences and cultural shock. But if you were going to a similar "western" country like say, Ireland or the U.S., you probably wouldn't be expecting it to be that divergent from your cultural reference points and zone of familiarity, and therefore wouldn't be prepared for the inevitable culture shock. When I moved to Dublin, the culture shock I experienced was mostly related to language and humour. I had

a lot to adjust to socially, there were a lot of times I was sitting in a room full of people feeling a bit weird, feeling a bit on the outside (and not just cos I was new to town), thinking "hey, everyone here is supposed to be friends with each other but they're all slugging each other off! They're all tearing each other to pieces cos it means they actually really love each other!" To me, it sometimes just seemed really mean and I didn't know how to relate or react to it apart from being my overly-earnest humourless self!

Dayana: It's hard to say because I don't know very many people outside of the punk scene here, but I think everywhere has sexism, every single country. I dunno, people in general act towards me in a really sexual way and don't respect women. Like, in Brazil all the propaganda on TV is totally sexist, and the punk scene is the same as everywhere, has much more men than women, and all the men at the front. I think things are starting to change a little bit with more women in the scene who do a lot of things, are involved with lots of things.

Tamarack: I think it's a really hard question to answer and I wish I'd thought more about these things before the interview. I'd say the same, like, there's nothing that I feel like I could really pinpoint here and say it's that much different from my experiences back home... It's a hard question because you kinda get down to, like, well what do you mean when you say sexism, and you kinda have to think about that for a long time and it's probably experienced on lots of

levels, all the time, but I wouldn't say I've found it especially hard living in Ireland for general sexism influencing relationships or anything. Like if it's just, I guess, feeling excluded, well, it's maybe even harder to tell, because it's like your foreign, you're coming from a different culture AND you're a woman, so you're kind of got already a few other things going on that might be

the reason that that you feel you've been excluded or treated differently. So if you don't think about it too much, which sometimes you don't, y'know, for your own sanity, hahah, you might not sit down and go "oh, well did they treat me like shit because I'm a woman, or because I'm from another country, or because I didn't understand their language, or maybe just everything all together!? Or maybe they just hate me!?"

Dayana: I don't think I can actually think of things that are concrete...

like, it seems that a lot of women, compared with other countries, are a bit more liberal, have more independence. In the punk scene there's

less women involved, like really involved in the punk alternative culture. I dunno, for some reason I feel really in the back, at the behind, like we were talking about the other day, all the women who play in bands sing, like all the other bands in the rest of the world... But then I feel bad about it myself,

I could learn to play something else.

Clodagh: I feel that if you were to look at and really critique Irish society, or the way that a person like I might live my life, well with how internalised these things are you just kind of see them as normal. For example, people who are good at bikes and DIY and stuff... I for instance would shy away from that, I'd be more into cooking or whatever, and then I'd feel like, well, why do I go for these typically woman-ey skills or woman interests. Like I went to all-girl schools and

the college course I did was maybe 75% women, so sometimes I feel like I've gone for these typical feminine roles... I think that our generation, around me like a lot of people wouldn't have said a lot of things like you could often define as "that's a very sexist comment". Sometimes it comes down to like, something at

work, like sometimes I've gone to lift a box or something and it's like "ah, you don't have to lift the box, love", and I'm like... I've been lifting amps and drum-kits up and down flights of stairs for years, I can lift a box of paper, y'know?

That kind of thing for me is almost more humorous, backwards... like, when people do that, but I suppose it's more of a symptom of like, if they do it in that way then they might do it in more important kind of ways.

Dayana: I've always had a strange personality since I was really young, like I was really tom-boy, y'know, playing football and all that kind of thing. And it's not so bad when you're a kid, you don't really realise what sexism is, like people think "what's she doing playing football, oh wait, she's a woman but she plays good", y'know? And they always picked me to play, hahah!! [laughter] And like when I got into skating, people were always impressed, people on the street,

cos I used dress so that you wouldn't know if I was a man or a woman, and then they'd realise I was a woman and be like "fuck, what's this fucking girl doing here, go and cook or something!", y'know?! [laughter] Like, "girls shouldn't do that", y'know? Most of the time it made me feel really embarrassed, especially cos I was younger and didn't think so much "fuck that, I should just be myself and not worry about what they think", but I still did, y'know?

Tamarack: I tried to take up skateboarding when I was younger too, and I don't think there were any other skater girls or whatever, but I haven't really dealt with that since I was 14 or 15 or whatever, and all the boys were like "fuck off, we're not gonna hang out with you, you're a slut", and this is all the supposedly alternative boys, so when you live in a really small place it's really hard to

take cos they're, like, the "alternative" to all the jocks and they all telling me I'm a slut and telling me they hate me and that I'm not allowed to listen to punk music cos it's theirs. So I'm like, oh man, I don't fit in anywhere! But I mean, I wouldn't deal with that now, and that to me is probably what I'd most commonly identify with really blatant sexism.

Dayana: well, skateboarders are generally really sexist. I think that's one of the things that made me stop skating, like, I was really into punk and I was like, ah fuck, I want to skate, but I feel, like, so lost and these people who are supposed to be my friends making stupid shit jokes at my expense. It was really easy for me to skate, like, cos I used to go to competitions and shit all the time, I used to win all the time because you have like only 3 or 4 others, and they all "skated like girls", hahah!! [laughter]. Y'know, like, just sitting on the skateboard and shit.

Tamarack: Yeah, the only other girls I knew with skateboards only sat on them and, like, smoked cigarettes...

Dayana: Like I used to be sponsored too, this place used to give me clothes, skate, shoes and skateboards, stuff like that, and they were always complaining that I should promote the "girl scene" but I used not to wear the "girl" clothes, and they're like "we're not going to sell anything for girls here if you don't wear girls clothes"... "you should wear that one, it's more tight".

Tamarack: I know, yeah, the lads skater clothes are like, oversize everything, and then the girls shirts come to like, here [hand at waist], and say something like "girls rule" and has a heart!! Y'know!? But yeah, I dunno, I think if I was going to try and define or identify some sort of low-key type of sexism that happens commonly, like I wouldn't say that I feel that I'm personally being treated badly for being a lady, but I'd say that things that are considered maybe more

typically female are looked down on, maybe not the people, maybe they didn't sit there and go "aw, girls, they're all a bunch of fuckin sluts, fuck them" or whatever, but it's still things like... heh, to drag my personal life into this zine that all my friends are going to read, hahah, I might be totally willing to learn all about bikes because Sean's really into bikes and like I can fix bikes and that's cool, and he's a totally open-minded guy and not sexist at all, but on

the other hand and he's completely uninterested in learning how to sew...or anything like that, and it's kinda like you were talking about Clodagh, things that are typically feminine that I totally enjoy doing, and like, I don't have a problem with that, but maybe they're kind of looked down upon on the whole by people, and by women, and that it's more that we're excluding those aspects of life than necessarily excluding the person because they're a woman.

I dunno, it's funny you're saying that, cos I was kinda thinking about those things recently, and it seems to me that in the punk scene, these more "typically feminine" things that are often looked down on in society, these are kinda seen to be quite cool and people enjoy them and are into them...?

Dayana: Like what?

Clodagh: Do you mean like, that they're having their time, or that we have them and we think they're cool, or...?

Like that they're generally seen as a worthwhile kinda thing, things like cooking or gardening or craft-ey kinda stuff like printing or sewing or then on the level of just generally being into taking care of one another, y'know?

Tamarack: I dunno, I kinda think that a lot of those things that you listed, with the exclusion of cooking, get more lip-service than they really get integrated? yeah, I would say that. It's like, everyone's "yeah, that's really cool" but I don't see that many people doing these things...like, I see a lot more people

playing guitar or whatever, and I'm not saying that it's only for boys, but it wouldn't be considered a typically female thing to do. I still see more people playing in bands than I see...eh...bustin out their latest craftwork, y'now, hahah!! Knitting at gigs or anything like that!

Clodagh: Hey though, what about a cake stall? Shorty brought a cake to the gig the other day...

Tamarack: Did he? well, good on him, maybe it's coming in...

Dayana: But I still think that in the punk scene there's girls cooking more and doing more stuff like that...

yeah, you do still get more women doing all the cooking for, like, Food Not Bombs or whenever there's some punk-related food thing, like at a punk festival or whatever and in general just probably more women doing that stuff in the punk scene...

Dayana: I dunno, maybe cos like, the way I learned, I learned to cook when I was REALLY really young, y'know? Like, I had to learn to cook to help my mother and help clean and stuff, and my brother never had to do that, and he doesn't know how to cook anything, he can, I dunno...fuckin make coffee or something like that?

what about sexism in the punk scene, male domination, do you think it's something that's inevitable or do you think that you can, like, do things to counteract it? Do you feel discouraged from being involved with things and putting yourself out there in ways that you feel you'd be more criticised than boys might be for doing things? It seems to be a trend everywhere in the punk scenes that there's more boys involved than girls...

Clodagh: In... visible roles.

Hmmm...both in visible roles & in terms of numbers I think generally, but I guess more so in visible roles.

Tamarack: when you say the punk scene, just to clarify, are you mostly just talking about, like, friends we would all have in common and music, or...?

well, kind of the punk, squatter, activist sort of scene, those kinda

Tamarack: Okay, yeah, stuff like that, cos I would say that I notice more sexism in activism kind of things than just in music, or...I wouldn't be so intimidated, necessarily, by boys in bands vs. boys with megaphones. [laughter]

I mean the whole general spectrum of scruffy, lefty punk types.

Dayana: I don't think I feel, like, discouraged...it's a bit difficult, like, with me, I was much more active in Brazil, I did much more things for myself, cos I could understand everything, but then when I came over here I had to learn the language and stuff. And I still can't do all the things, for example if I want to do a zine, or e-mail, or whatever, it just takes so long, or if I want to put on a gig myself, stuff like that.

kylie; when I got to Ireland, I was all like "where are all the ladies in the punk scene?" but some of my friends had to stop me and remind me that the amount of grrrls/ladies involved now is kinda unprecedented and is a total dream compared to a few years ago. You know, everyone kept reminding me that until only a few years ago, Clodagh was one of only a few active womyn involved in visible, punk scene stuff!! The town I'm from, Brisbane, it's quite a small city that goes

through waves of activity and it really suffers when people leave to go traveling or move away. So there have been many times where I've been one of only a handful of "active" wimmin involved in my punk community. Like, of course there are loads of right-on lads and many of them are my dearest friends, but it can just feel a little bit weird to be a feminist and to be involved in a culture where wimmin often aren't very involved. It's very easy to feel intimidated in space

that feels like it's marked most definitely "male". I do a record and zine distro, I've been doing it for about 5 years now, and it was actually really scary when I first started taking my stuff to shows. Even though I've been involved in punk for about 11 or 12 years, it suddenly felt really weird to walk into such a gendered space where guys are typically the "active" or "visible" participants in

the scene, and to suddenly take up a whole bunch of space and set up my distro. It might sound inconsequential or trivial, but I found it really intimidating and it was hard to feel the confidence I usually feel. And if I felt like that in a room of people I know really well, I can't imagine how a grrrl/womyn completely new to the punk scene would feel.

Tamarack: I'd probably be discouraged from doing things because I saw mostly lads being involved, but half of that is probably my own ego problems, like from seeing anyone involved and being like, oh, I don't know if I could do it as good as them, but...half of it is, like, I'm only going to identify with guys to a

certain degree...like, you and I might have tons of things in common, but at some point, and it doesn't like make up my whole personality to be, like, "I'm a woman", but there is a point at which I would identify with you differently if you were a girl. So, maybe never having, or having very few role-models, sort of puts the pressure on to a degree. Like, if I'm going to do this, start a band, or write a zine, or fuckin start a religion or whatever, I've gotta do it twice as good as any guy kinda thing... But as I say, that's probably half my...like, it is up to me to get over it, but nobody's going to, I guess, change that for me...unless someone feels like changing that for me?! [laughter]

Clodagh: when I first started going to gigs in the mid-to-late 90's there was fuck-all girls involved, noce... I remember that there'd be, like, maybe 5 girls at a gig...like, really nobody. And compared to then, now it's like, woohah!

Like, sometimes it seems there's 50-50 girls, and there's girls at the front, or there's girls who maybe got in through a boyfriend and they're still there afterwards, and that's cool. So I think it's just a matter of time before girls are in loads of bands and doing loads more stuff.

you think?

Clodagh: Yeah...yeah I'm optimistic about it.
would you find that as well?

Tamarack: I'd agree, yeah, things are getting better, and considering that the population is more widely comprised of women, it's only a matter of time until...we take over, bwahahaha! [laughter].

Clodagh: your days are numbered!

Tamarack: I think ladyfest could be an example of trying to do things where you have ladies recognising each other, which I think is such a huge important thing, like, if I'm going to go to a gig, or if I'm going to go out...well...it just happens that gigs are maybe the most attended social event that I can think of...a lot more people go to bands than go to the zine library...

Clodagh: ooh!!

Tamarack: Hahah, yeah, get that in there too! Don't get that in there actually!

Too late! You signed the contract!

Tamarack: Hahah...em, but yeah, I will make a point, and I don't mean this falsely, to go up and talk to my women friends, and identify them, because I think there was a point in my life when I realised that I was more likely to come into a circle and start talking to the guys because I felt I needed their approval before I needed to make the connection to women, and probably a lot of

women do this or have come to a similar conclusion and maybe moved on from it, and it's also just for my own pleasure or whatever, that I enjoy having women friends. So when I go in, I'm gonna go and see her and her and her and her

start feeling like you're always an accessory...and I'm not, goddamit!!

Dayana: And it's always Sean & Tamarack, not Tamarack & Sean...hahah!!

Tamarack: Yeah! Get that in, hahah!!

okay, okay, I only say it cos I knew Sean first!!

Tamarack: Yeah, and everyone else cos I'm from foreign, right? Hahah!

Dayana: It's much more difficult for some reason for a woman to be friends with a woman than for a man to be friends with a man, I don't know why...like, it's gonna be much easier for men to have a friendship but with women it's going to be more complicated, for some reason...I feel I have much more male friends over here than women, like, I don't really like a lot of people...like, a lot of women.

Clodagh: what, you're a sexist! [laughter]

Tamarack: stop oppressing us!

Clodagh: Like you find you have a lot more in common with men or...?

Dayana: Yeah, like, I dunno, I have much more male friends than woman friends, and I have more fights with the woman friends...

what I think about it is...like, you can see how there's more competition encouraged between women in society in general and...

Dayana: Yeah, like, I've got a good example, like when I used to skate and there were lots of girls that I would have liked to be friends with but they didn't want to be friends with me because they want to be better than me in skating and everything else, y'know? And they'd never be friends with me and talk behind my back and stuff cos it's like some kind of competition, like they have to go for the best men, she's the woman of the house, she's the woman in the punk scene.

Tamarack: Yeah, there's a real mentality like "there can be only one punk lady and that's it...like Highlander but with mohawks or something, heheh."

I noticed that before with certain people, that they'd feel very threatened, especially if they for a long time have been the only woman in a group of friends...

Dayana: ...and then when other women get involved, like territorial or something...yeah. Like, I don't really feel like that I but I think other people

feel like that towards me, like I had friends who had girlfriends, and the girlfriend doesn't like me because I'm friends with their boyfriend and doing much more things with them like skating or stuff like that, and the girlfriend's just like a "girlfriend" and they've got much more to talk about with me, much more in common. So they got really pissed off and fought with me...just really jealous and see me as competition or something...

Tamarack: I think that's really common... and maybe it does come from growing up and having some innate feeling that you're not as good and that the world doesn't exist for you before it exists before your brother or male friend or father, it's for them, and you get sloppy seconds kind of thing...like there's limited resource, like I gotta fight you for it, there's only so much space...

Dayana: Like, I know I can do anything that any men can do, like when I was younger I really wanted to prove to myself that I could do the same things to the same level that all the guys could do...

Tamarack: I think it can both be a positive thing but also sometimes come from not feeling very good about yourself, not saying that you feel that way, but like, I was a tomboy too and I'd go out feeling like I had to do this thing because I feel totally unnoticed otherwise, I'm just totally relegated to the girlfriend ranks...

Clodagh: Hmmm...I'm just thinking about all the people I've probably made feel like that, that I wasn't spending time with the girls or involved with them...I was possibly that girl who's like "oh, that Clodagh one, she'll talk to my boyfriend or she'll talk to lads but she won't talk to me", just I suppose I know them better and sometimes I'm not very good socially...or I'm not very good at conversations, but this person I know, they're into this or they're into that, how do I start a conversation with this girl who I know nothing about...

I think it can be a sort of self-fulfilling prophesy kind of thing...like, maybe a lot of girls think that to be taken seriously they have to prove themselves to be "just one of the lads", y'know? Like, I'm not here because I'm a girl and I want a cool boyfriend or whatever, I'm here because I'm into this music and this way of thinking and so on...

Tamarack: But I'm not one of the lads, I'm a girl, goddamit!! Like, I know what you mean and that's just it, that mentality totally exists, and it's really frustrating because at the end of the day you're NOT one of the lads.

So people feel that they have to do that to be taken seriously, but then maybe that precludes being friends on a more open level with other women.

Tamarack: Yeah like if you're going to be friends with another woman then you're admitting that you are a woman... like, if you have a woman friend, you're going to relate to them differently than you relate to the guys, and that's why having them around is bad, because it does bring that out in you and, y'know, you might end up talking about cooking or sewing, god forbid, hahah!! And then they're all gonna find you out, by your periods or something like that, hahah!!

Dayana: I remember one time I put on this gig, more of a festival really, two days and with workshops and stuff like that, and I did it basically 95% myself, and I had a friend who helped me do the flyers cos I don't really know much about computers. And then everyone was like "aw, that's really great Dayana that you're helping your friend with this festival" y'know, cos I was the girl!?

Tamarack: Did you kill them, is that why you left Brazil? [laughter]

Dayana: Hahah...no, but like, I just felt really sad, cos people didn't even know if it was him or me, so they just gave him all the credit...

Like, one thing I constantly noticed, living in Denmark is that the women there, the girls in the punk scene, do seem a lot closer to each other and supportive of each other, and sort of exclusive of males from their groups, a positive way, like so that there's no reliance...and often kind of a lot closer in a different way than they'd be friends with boys, and I think I noticed it cos it seemed to stand out in comparison to...

Clodagh: It's not the Irish way...

Tamarack: I think that's great, I think that's the only way that you're going to feel, as a lady, woman, girl, whatever, better about yourself and to not have to prove that you're one of the lads, because you're one of the girls and you're going to go and do your own thing with your girlfriends and face up to all those things that you see in other women that you may not like in yourself and

sometimes make it hard to relate to other women, and deal with those. Cos when you see a group of ladies getting on well and doing things, it's just more powerful and productive than seeing one girl, or being the one girl trying to infiltrate a group of guys and work within that framework...I'm not saying that guys & girls shouldn't work together, I'm not sure if you get what I mean...

Yeah, I think I know what you mean. It's just stronger as a whole when people have their own strength in their own small groups and so on, if you're not wasting your energy trying to prove that you're something that you shouldn't have to prove.

Tamarack: I think it's kind of like being a racial minority as well where you need that sort of support within your own community, and you need to have that...like

if you're not white there's no point in only hanging out with white people, it's just gonna alienate you, it doesn't make them bad, it just means that you need this other thing as well.

well, I think it doesn't necessarily have to be a bad thing that women in the punk scene might be more interested in cooking or sewing or something, just maybe that there'd be as much respect for those things as there is for playing guitar in a band or something, which I think there often is, or definitely is

now more than in the past. Like in dominant DIY punk culture, there's definitely more of a focus, with books or whatever, on cooking and DIY healthcare and whatever else that wouldn't have been there so much in the 80's or early 90's or whatever, y'know?

Tamarack: I think I notice a big difference maybe between here and Canada, like, Vancouver is more or less known as one of the gay capitals of North America, to a degree, like, it's fairly gay friendly, a lot more than here, and I know this isn't strictly on the topic of sex relationships but it's gender issue, definitely, and I think that has to be integrated into the punk scene and larger communities and all the communities before sexism starts getting better, or whatever...

Clodagh: I think that in the Summer I heard Carmel saying that she was considering starting a womens group, not for a particular reason to discuss, just that we all got together and hung out. But, y'know...I'd say you'd get a

Tamarack: Ah yeah, but you'd get a slugging for anything I reckon...you'd get a slugging for not starting one almost, hahah!!

Like, I remember reading about things like that when I was younger, women-only spaces and so on, maybe about 5 years ago, and feeling quite threatened by it and being automatically negative towards it and thinking what's this, it's just counter-productive, separatist y'know...

Clodagh: Reverse sexism...

Yeah...and so on, and like, we're trying to work towards the same goals so why...

Tamarack: Do you still feel that way?

No, but it took a while, like it was't until I'd read of various accounts and peoples' personal experiences and talked to various people about it before I realised it was a positive thing and the reasons for it, and that I didn't need to feel threatened. But my immediate reaction WAS feeling threatened by it, so I imagine that a lot of people probably would react the same way. I do imagine

a lot of people probably would just slag you for it, but...fuck them. The next question is just about that, humour and all. I've noticed that some people from other countries don't really get some jokes and just feel really uncomfortable because of things that people would find funny and the kind of jokes that people would make here, just automatically...

Tamarack: Like, it's not the same thing over here at all, but back home, in general, calling someone a cunt is not done...it's just really offensive, and I don't know what to liken it to...

well, here it was the one thing that you wouldn't say to your mum.

Tamarack: Yeah, but there we wouldn't even say it amongst ourselves. And not within all circles, like, I was certainly swearing up a blue streak by the time I was 9 or 10, as any good working class family member does, hahah, but not...

Clodagh: Not the C-word.

Tamarack: No, not by the late teens even...it was something really personal and really offensive...

well, it was always the, eh, worst word that I knew...

Tamarack: Yeah, but people still say it, like even I say it now, and I'll say it on the phone to someone back home and I'll just be like "yeah, he's a right fuckin' cunt" in my weird hybrid speak and they're just like "eh...?". So I'd advise anyone who's talking to a fresh-off-the-board North American to maybe not call them a cunt in the first 10 minutes!

Dayana: I remember, it really pissed me off, I met this guy in the library from South America, I don't remember exactly where, and it was so weird, this guy just came over to me cos he saw I took Portuguese books and was like "oh, you speak Portuguese blah blah" and then he came up to me in the shop I used to work in and

said "yeah, I came because I'm interested in you" and I said "why?" and he was like "aw, y'know like..." and so I said "no, why exactly are you interested in me, you don't know me?". So he was like "you know why we want a woman, we want a woman for cooking and stuff like that" so I was just like..."aargh!!"

so what did you do?

I started screaming and shouting at him and he couldn't understand why, I think he didn't understand how bad the things he was saying to me were, and I started coming back and ringing me and trying to talk to me!

Fuckin' stalking you.

Dayana: Yeah! Just really horrible, you know, why do you want a woman, "to cook and have sex and stuff like that", y'know...

Yeah...I guess when that's what you hear all the time, growing up, you're not going to question it...

Dayana: Like, I did get really pissed off but I know that in his culture like, guys, they don't give you flowers before they ask you to cook or whatever they just say "go in and cook!", y'know...

Tamarack: The thing with the humour, aside from the swear-words, I'd defend this if you all weren't Irish, if you were a bunch of Canadians slagging the Irish humour, I'd be like "you leave it alone man, you don't understand!", y'know? But

since you're not I'll just take the other side, hahah! It's not always bad, and I am a very very sarcastic person myself, which I try not to be all the time, but

it is unfortunate that, like, it does sometimes go to a complete extreme to cover up disfunctional problems in friendships or whatever... Like, I've had serious difficulties talking to some people, where I've tried to be really straight-up with them and they'll fall back on the humour repeatedly, in a way that's really completely inappropriate. And it wouldn't happen near as often back home.

Can you think of examples? Like, a certain situation?

Tamarack: Well, say where I could maybe take you aside, like maybe you made a joke about something and despite that all the colour drained from my face you continued joking and I took you aside, like I did with someone who I would consider my friend here who happens to be male, and just said like "look, you really can't be joking about that, it's really personal to me and so on" and the response was "oh, it's just a joke, you don't really understand" etc and not even a "oh, I'm sorry". I think it's just hard for humans in general to maybe face up to their emotions and be straight-up... dare I say... perhaps... Ireland is... perhaps a millisecond behind other countries as well...

Yeah. I know what you mean.

Tamarack: I'm not saying everywhere else in the world is better, I'm obviously here because I want to be here, but sometimes...

Don't worry, we won't kick you out for saying what you think! [laughter]

Tamarack: Yeah, you can't, I've got a card! [laughter]

The way I see it is that it's not JUST in a sexist kind of way, but it is that as well. Like, it can just be in a way that's negative to people in general. But then it also comes into gender and sexuality issues too and has an effect on that, and people from North America and Australia and so on don't seem to be as offended by language and stuff like that, that kind of humour. But people especially in European countries seem really shocked if you say, I dunno, cunt or bitch or something that's taken for granted here. Or just that, well, a lot of the way that people relate to one another one here is through insults, y'know!?

Tamarack: Yeah, like abuse is affection and that.

Clodagh: I only kind of copped on to that recently... "hold on, we're sitting around and we're all just telling each other how shit each other is" and this is... a normal good evening, well spent! What the fuck?!

I think even when it's between friends it still affects you, your self-view and so on.

Clodagh: It's damaging.

Tamarack: Yeah, totally. I think, in the sexual sense, like I haven't had anything that I can think of said to me, but I definitely have heard of a few examples where REALLY inappropriate things were said to... certain people. At a gig recently someone said to one of the ladies "Ah shut up or I'll rape you"... as a

joke, like... that's not fucking funny, that's not on at all, and like, I'm not sure but I think, a few months down the line someone kind of said "come on, you don't say that!". But like, I just couldn't imagine what would be going through someone's head to think "that's funny". No, that's not funny, she's outside crying afterwards. It's not always that extreme, obviously.

I think that's one of the things that kind of made other people...

Dayana: ...very uncomfortable. Like, last year sometime, there was a girl from North America staying in the squat who felt really uncomfortable and disgusted, like wrote us a letter saying that she hated being there and thought that people were really sexist and macho and didn't feel safe... I couldn't really understand before... but I think it's just the way Irish people talk. The words they try and

offend each other with, the kind of jokes they make, that shouldn't be taken seriously, like sexist or macho or racist that aren't meant to be taken seriously, but you shouldn't joke with this kind of thing, you should be here to try and challenge this kind of thing.

Tamarack: Like, Irish people, culturally, probably come from a much darker past than white Canadians would, and I can understand how black humour would totally arise out of that, and with each generation is getting, hopefully, a shade lighter, hahah, but just in general I'm sure humanity could do to be more considerate and compassionate to one another. y'know, there's just a

would usually go "ah shut up, it's only a joke" said no. that's going too far...

Dayana: But when people say "ah it's only a joke" and you're really fuckin' angry and say something about it, they just call you P.C. and stuff like that, and then you feel really bad. Sometimes you really feel like you should do or say something about things like that but sometimes you just say nothing cos you know they're just going to say "fuck off, you're too P.C." or something.

And then it's, like, a big group of people all laughing before you can say anything, it's just a joke and if you don't get it then shut up, it's your problem.

Tamarack: To give you a bit of the other side of the coin, I guess just to throw a comment out there, probably something that some of us ladies too need to acknowledge on our own progression to stop being sexist, whether it's treating other girls like shit or whatever, is also to not, people trying to be "lads" in a way... I don't know if you understand... It's like, okay, say I'm a girl, and I

feel weak in comparison to the male majority, in a few ways, maybe not so much physically, but I feel less empowered, so some reactions are to kind of get louder and so on, and I realise that I will say things to my male friends that I would not say to another woman, I'll be a lot harsher and rougher with them, and like, I try to check myself on it, but like...that's not fair either.

Clodagh: Hahah, yeah, I think you do...hahah...stuff you say that if you said it to me I'd probably cry!

Tamarack: Yeah...no, like, exactly! And it's just like, there's also the individual relationship you have with the person regardless of their gender, but...well, I'm not getting any worse!

I think it's kind of a catch 22 situation...like, if people relate to you in that way, in a "burly" kind of way, you've got a choice of either reacting to them in the same way, which kind of, in a certain way, retains self-respect and keeps it a joke but which you don't like, but then if you don't react in that way you feel a bit shit about yourself and like you're letting yourself be pushed around...

Tamarack: I don't think it's self-respect, I think it's just saving face...

Yeah, I think that's more what it is actually...

I think if I really wanted to maintain my self-respect I could act a lot more honestly and actually tell them how I felt instead of...

But then that creates this awkward situation...

Tamarack: Bring it on, bring on the awkward!

Did any of you have experience of sexual assault or rape incidents within the punk/activist scene you came from, before here and the one recently?

Dayana: Yeah...in Brazil...not exactly, but some cases of a girl sleeping with a guy and the girl wakes up in the middle of the night and the guy's touching her and she's like "what the fuck?". I think when someone does stuff like that in the punk scene or an anarchist group, probably the first thing they do is exclusion, not like it was here...

I'm not sure how you mean...

Clodagh: What, like, the girl went "what are you doing?", *smack!*, and then it was all over?

Dayana: More like EVERYONE went like that, just immediately...and he's not allowed to, like, stay in the punk scene anymore...and myself like, with the thing with...I felt really awkward, like I should have done something more...cos, like, he tried to get with me and I said no loads of times and when I eventually just said "look, that's not going to happen" his girlfriend had just arrived, after a few seconds, and I was like "fuck...what am I going to say, she saw just me & him here, no one else around, what's she going to think", y'know?

Tamarack: Just your word against his...em...well, before we came to Ireland well, we were in Australia for about 6 months, staying with a friend in Tasmania, and one of the people that we were friends with, that we were staying with, they were living in this fairly small town which didn't really have a punk scene going on at all, and the reason she had left the larger city that she used to live in and, wasn't going back was cos there was this guy who had been, not just accused, like it seemed pretty obvious that these weren't just random accusations and, I mean, if someone's being accused of sexual assault, I really think it should be "guilty

until proven innocent" rather than the opposite, especially when it's happening repeatedly with a person with a bad track record of personality on top of that, and this guy who had assaulted these women, just nothing ever happened about it in the end and he was still going to gigs and up to stuff. So she was like, "I'm not going back there". So that's just one person and I don't think she even told people, generally, like the scene at large wouldn't have known that, it was maybe just one or two people. I think that's something for everyone to think about, that there could be people now somewhere going "I'm not going back there because

that's happened". I'm not necessarily talking about current events here, just about how far-reaching that can be anywhere... I also had a very shitty situation back home where two friends of mine, two really long-term friends, one of them said that the other had sexually assaulted her. It was really crazy and my reaction was just like "look dude, I don't really think that was the case, I was there" and it wasn't until more recent events happened where the same sort of politics came up that I started thinking about it again and just how like, as

close as these people were to me, my initial reaction is still like...like you don't want to have to sit down and take it seriously because it seems that as soon as you stop and listen to it you're saying, yes it happened, and there's a real fear about acknowledging it... it's like, okay, if I listen to her and I say "well what do you feel about it and what do you think happened" and so on, then that's going to be equivalent to me saying "yes, he raped you"

which...like...it's a fuckin horrible, really really, I dunno, shitty situation for anyone to be in on any level...but I dunno... Ireland, in contrast, like this is the first time I've seen it dealt with in this kind of "let's have meetings" situation, which I think...I dunno...you'll probably have to wait another year...or two...before you ask me what I think of it, it's very strenuous to go through...community meetings about rape. Especially when the accused shows up...can be very stressful.

well...I think almost nobody here has any experience of that happening as a "punk scene issue"...like, I've read about various incidents in different scenes and the way people would deal with it, but I don't think people have experience of that happening here.

Dayana: well I think from the opposite side, like, so many women are raped and they don't say because they're really embarrassed and, like, when you say something about your sexual side, something really personal, no-one's going to say it's rape cos it's something personal, like most people don't want to know what's happened...and everyday I hear and hear more and more stories about girls

who something like this happened to...doesn't necessarily have to be rape, but sexual assault or...like, I didn't realise how many girls who are my friends had had such...were raped before, or had some really really bad experience like that...I just realised this not too long ago...

Tamarack: I think, back home like, I mean, I've had friends that have gone...through different levels of situations. But over here like, we have had friends...like who've said like, "I was raped and I never told anyone" or "I was abused by a family member when I was young and I never told anyone" or "and I never went to counselling". And there's such a stigma here against going to counselling... Like I mean I can go home [to Canada] and go for coffee with one of my girlfriends and say, "y'know, I've been feeling really depressed and I'm thinking of going to see

a therapist" and it's not considered a weird thing, it's like "yeah, that's sound, why wouldn't you go talk to someone?". Like, y'know, hopefully your parents would give you some money to do this...and here it's just, like...even, like, I've personally said this to someone really close to me here, like when I first got back and was having a really hard time adjusting, I was like "I dunno, I'm having a really hard time, I'm kinda thinking I might see a counsellor for a while and just have someone to talk to". And it was just met with that silence. That good old...Irish Silence...of like, "hmmmm..."

...eh...do you want another cup of tea?"

Tamarack: Yeah! Like, "TEA then! Will I make the tea!". It's just, like, you don't talk about it, and it's shocking to me to know that, like considering how few women I do know here, like, that there's that percentage of abuse and assault all, just for their own personal sanity, and it's just really unfortunate and I hope...I hope that I stay here to see the day and I can say "I'm going to therapy!" and everyone goes "ah, grand!" hahah!

I dunno, I think it's loads of reasons, it's a social thing. Part of it is the way nobody wants to...eh...like, if anybody kinda acts in a...is the

...different or even... seems to have regard for themselves... then people are like, "oh, why do you think you're so special?". Y'know, "you going doing this, you're just the same as anyone else, why would you have to go to counselling?"

Tamarack: Yeah, like "you think your troubles are so hard, let me tell you... Yeah, and like so people find it difficult to do or say that... Clodagh: I dunno, for me recently, loads of people I know are in counselling, but I don't want to go "oh, y'know, it's fine, blah blah blah" cos maybe they're not comfortable with it...

Hmmm... but people still wouldn't talk about it openly, ever.

Clodagh: well, like, I went to counselling and I don't care, I'd sing it from the tree-tops, but just in case someone else is a bit weird about it... But two people I can think of went "oh yeah, like, if you can't solve your own problems, y'know..."

Tamarack: "That's not very D.I.Y." [laughter]

Well, I think people are a bit like that... like... I went to counselling for a while, but I wouldn't feel comfortable saying it around people... I think that people would view me differently or...

Tamarack: Hahah... "Cormac: cuc-koo!" [laughter]

Hahah! Yeah, well, I don't care about that so much, more that they'd just think that I was feeling sorry for myself, that I thought my problems were much worse than other peoples... and I know it's bollocks, but I still... feel it, y'know? And I think a lot of other people probably feel the same...

Clodagh: Secretly we're all going to counselling but everyone's afraid to say it! Dayana: My family made me go when I was younger but it did nothing for me... I didn't feel comfortable at all and it didn't help...

Tamarack: It doesn't necessarily help, yeah, like I went to a counsellor when I was younger too and it was just a waste of my time, absolutely, and that was... unfortunate. I think that also ties into being of a lower economic standing, like probably if we were all rich and came from rich backgrounds it'd be totally more acceptable to like, have your own personal psychologist, but instead it's like "you think that you're so special that you'd waste all this money on going to a therapist" so I think there's a real economic tie-in with that... If you're not rich, like until recently there probably wasn't so many rich people anyway, so it's just like that...

I think it kinda ties in with the sexual assault and rape thing aswell, like how women are afraid to say about it cos they think people will judge them harshly because of it and think that they're looking for special attention or something. In the way you might feel that people would be talking about you or whatever, if you say something about going to counselling or being depressed or something, that if you say these others things, because so many people have such low self-esteem in the first place, it's kind of like "oh, you think somebody would have that kind of interest you anyway, who do you think you are?"

Clodagh: I guess if you say that you were sexually assaulted you're really opening a horrible can of worms that nobody wants to hear about.

Yeah, and nobody knows how to deal with it or what to say... Like, how do you feel that the incident recently in the squat was dealt with, by people in general and do you think there's any difference between the way males dealt with it and females dealt with it and if there was a problem with either, more so than the other?

Clodagh: I think people dealt with it pretty well... I think initially there was a period of shock and then people started talking about it... it was probably helpful that she wasn't around... maybe if she had to hear it, she wouldn't really have been down with 20 people discussing this outside a gig... but I think it was a positive thing, that people were talking about it...

Tamarack: In comparison I guess to anything else I've up to this point been through or read about or whatever, it's definitely so far the most pro-active approach... I do feel, like, y'know, it was taken seriously, largely, and I don't have any bad feelings about anyone, except for 1 or 2 people that were very directly involved... 1 person especially... but, y'know, as far as people coming together and talking about it and having different viewpoints... I mean, I talked directly to people who completely disagree with me as far as what they think happened, and I still feel that it was dealt with... well... I think a very

wholehearted attempt was made, I think it's an incredibly difficult thing to deal with, and there's probably no way to come out of it feeling good in the end, so... I don't feel good about it, in that sense, but I also couldn't imagine it happening back home, so maybe that's a credit...

Clodagh: A credit to the Irish, after all the bashing you've done so far! Tamarack: A credit to this small, small island! After all, what is Ireland other than a small island off the coast of Europe anyway, hahah!

with other incidents I've heard about in other countries and scenes and so on, I've heard of a few where the immediate reaction was just total ostracism and social exclusion, and I'm not sure if that's the most productive or best way of approaching it. Like, I can see reasons for both sides, why it is and it isn't, but I don't... like I think that on one hand it can make other women in general feel safer, and the victim directly involved, and that's maybe the main reason you'd see, but at the same time it doesn't change the person's attitude and it doesn't change people in general's attitudes and it doesn't make the person themselves deal with the issues that caused them to do this and consequently other people who undoubtedly would have the same internal... mental processes or whatever that would allow them to rape or sexually assault people, it doesn't force them to deal with it, I think.

Tamarack: See, those things like making someone face up to their own issues isn't something that you can legislate them to do or that you can come to a unanimous handshaking decision that so-and-so now has to face up to his rapist tendencies... I'm fairly happy with the conclusion that has so far been made, I don't know what power it has at the end of the day, but the latest decision here was that the fellow who was involved has a 6-month "cooling out" period, and I'm

happy enough with that, because despite the fact that, like in my heart I fully believe that he is guilty of sexually assaulting someone, and I also can appreciate that it'll never be proved and I think that something like a "cooling out" period is good because you're not saying you're ostracised, and as much as it's going to come across, it's important to say "we haven't judged, it's not like we know this happened" whatever, but there's, like, ten different things

that can be pointed to, just like "you made people uncomfortable, you did x to this person who's here and says it and you've admitted that you did it and didn't realise you were being inappropriate" etc. Everyone just needs to go away from each other now... like, I mean, if I had suggested a cooling out period... like, the cooling out period that was voted on was like, 6 months, and then re-evaluation... I wanted a year, and then re-evaluation, because I felt that would be long enough, it's not like, forever, it's not 5 years or some ridiculously long amount of time, but at the same time it's enough time that hopefully this person will some morning wake up and stop going "I'm such a victim" and actually go "what did I do..." y'know, it's enough time that they can stop just trying to modify their behaviour to please us, please the greater society, but it's more like "we want you back in a year, we want to talk to you, we don't want you to fuck off and move somewhere else, but we really need you to go away and fucking sort shit out on your own". I may never personally be comfortable with this person, but that doesn't mean I'm completely unopen to it progressing in such a way that he's allowed into things.

Clodagh: well, the thought just struck me that... well, in this case the person doesn't think they did anything wrong, but if someone might go "yeah"... that we have to allow for them to go "jesus, like... I fuckin did this horrible thing and

ruined this girls life and I will change what I want to be and I still want to be around these friends and you to help me get better so as to not be so horrible again", rather than just go... y'know, give them the death penalty... I think, if nothing else, like, you were saying that no-one can feel good, and maybe some guys will think "god, like, that time I had sex with that girl maybe she wasn't really into it or was a bit drunk" or girls would feel a bit more empowered...

Dayana: It's maybe sometimes really difficult to say when you're drunk... if you express yourself that you want to or that you don't want to, maybe you don't want to, you can't really express it most of the time, just lie down and oh, this is happening now, we're here now and you don't have time to think about any of the

stuff... like, oh fuck, now I have to do it, I'm here, I've no clothes on, y'know, stuff like that... it can feel really horrible...

and what's forceful and so on... different ideas of what's acceptable

Dayana: Well, I think it's the fault of both people, for women who don't express themselves very well, if people are drunk...not in this case, just in general... just mean that if you can't really express yourself and you have sex and then after you feel paranoid about what happened, I think it's the fault of both... I think you have to really perceive what's going on and see if the person's really comfortable to have sex, like ask "are you okay, are you sure" and stuff like that and probably the fault of the other side not to say "I'm not sure I want to do this"...

Clodagh: Just to say, like, "is it okay if we have sex?"

Tamarack: Well, I've said that before to people and I don't think it's a horrible thing to have to say, and I mean, I think you can tell, like if somebody suddenly stop moving, y'know, like, you're getting all hot and heavy and they suddenly off, like if you like them enough to be there in the first place, whether you're half-drunk as it usually is or you're not, it's still...y'know, "is this okay, do you not want to do this?"

I think you pretty much have to do that...

Tamarack: Yeah, and it's really not the end of the world, you actually can say it and the person may very well thank you for it, like "thank you, cos I didn't know how to say yes I am" or "no I'm not" and I just wanted to know that you were...still paying attention! That this wasn't going on without me! [laughter]

Kylie: Until I was in Dublin, I hadn't really dealt with an incident of sexual assault at a "community level" before. But I most certainly had very real experience dealing with the effects of sexual assault within my immediate circle of friends and extended community of friends. One of the reasons I think I probably didn't deal with it at a "community level" before is because many times, the victims/survivors (myself included) have felt like all your energy is going to just surviving, just basically trying to get through it at a personal

level, and you don't feel like you just don't have the energy to take it further in terms of a community reaction or response. It's exhausting and upsetting to know that everyone is talking about you (but maybe not talking TO you about it) and maybe feeling like you're going through it all over again. Like Tamarack said, sometimes it's easier to just leave town than deal with it. When we had discussions in Dublin, several other incidents got brought up, and some people

expressed the opinion of "like, wow, I had no idea that sexual assault had got so common in the punk/activist community." I actually don't think that it's got more common, I think that it's got more common to feel like you can TELL people about it, more common for victims/survivors to feel like they (we) don't necessarily have to keep it a secret. Although we have a LONG way to go, I feel like there is, at the very least, the START of a (pretty informal) support network to discuss these issues when they come up.

Recently, we had a sexual assault workshop at the Belladonna DIY Fest in Australia (<http://www.belladonnadiy.org>), and some of us realised how inadequately we have responded to issues in the past, like by talking about this stuff, we are NOW able to realise how we could have reacted/responded WAY better. I'm not necessarily talking about serious sexual assault, but stuff like inappropriate or unwanted touching and sexist behaviour.

Like, someone in our circle of friends is saying a lot of fucked-up shit or doing some inappropriate touching that is obviously making a lot of people uncomfortable, but no-one's really had to deal with this situation before with their friends. So unfortunately there have been a few times where it's awkward and uncomfortable and because no-one is really sure how to deal with it, that it ends up NEVER really being properly addressed with the perp.

Also, we've talked about how a lot of us are feminist and pro-feminist and fight this stuff in many other places, but find we're often really easily silenced and intimidated, and unable to confront this shit when it happens with our friends. It really is fuckin' hard, and that's why I think it's important to document the way different communities have dealt with incidences of sexual assault and sexist behaviour, so that we don't always have to start from scratch. Part of this was making the "what do we do when" sexual assault zine distributed at Belladonna that documented different situations, like the one in Dublin, the situation at the Pointless Fest etc.

so yeah, I think documenting this stuff in zines is an awesome idea and so is just generally discussing this stuff. When we had a "wimmin's meeting" in Dublin, we discussed that it might be a good idea to meet with each other every couple of months just to check in with each other, check that everyone is okay, just to mention anything that might have happened or anything that needs to be addressed like inappropriate touching/sexist behaviour/fucked-up attitudes.

It's also a really positive thing to have discussions with each other about consent and boundaries. Like maybe your actions wouldn't be classified as sexual assault, but try to think about times where maybe someone didn't really want to have sex with you initially, but ended up saying "yes" because you persisted in asking them and they found it was just easier to go along with it than to keep resisting, especially if alcohol blurred the lines a little. At a pro-active personal level, like Clodagh mentioned, you can also just ask people you're involved with stuff like "is it okay if we have sex?" you know, it doesn't really have to be a big deal or a big conversation, it just has to be a little question like "are you okay with this?" It doesn't really have to be awkward, it's just really nice to know that the other person (or people) involved feel present and engaged with the situation. And even being aware of body language and non-verbal signs, like if someone's body is obviously screaming "no", stuff like that.

And in regard to what you wrote about "with other incidents I've heard about in other countries and scenes and so on, I've heard of a few where the immediate reaction was just total ostracism and social exclusion, and I'm not sure if that's the most productive or best way of approaching it." If the accused person/perpetrator is obviously a bit of an asshole, someone who a lot of people have had difficulties with and bad feelings about, then it's often a lot easier to accept an accusation of sexual assault about them. Do you know what I mean? I felt like, with the situation in Dublin, that because a lot of people had conflicts and problems and uncomfortable feelings about the perpetrator before, it was almost easier to believe that yeah, he had done it, he was capable of it.

And it's therefore maybe easier to ostracise and exclude them from the community for a certain amount of time. I kinda wonder what if the accused person is someone that we all love to bits, someone really right-on and not manipulative, someone that we could NEVER imagine doing something like that, would it be harder to believe the victim/survivor? And would it be a lot harder to call them on their shit and ostracise them for a certain time, if that's what "the community" wanted???? Just something I wonder about... Yeah maybe exclusion isn't always the best idea, because the person may not really face up to what they've done, never really deal with why they act like that. And if we ostracise them, maybe they'll just move on to a different community or a different circle of friends, and continue that behaviour without it ever really being addressed.

Like Tamarack said, yeah maybe you'd never personally feel comfortable being around that person, but you can see why they should be allowed to stay in the community to a certain extent. And if we do choose to stay involved with a perpetrator, I think it's important that new people getting involved with that person are made aware of their history when necessary. But, I also think that

it's always incredibly important to remember the wishes of victims/survivors - if they say that they are not comfortable to keep participating in their community, to go to events, to shows, to meetings, whatever, because the perp might be present, then exclusion SHOULD be considered. It's not fair that the victim/survivor has to be alienated or excluded from their community and feel like shit all over again. I think it's also important to take notice if the victim/survivor explicitly says they are NOT comfortable with the "using-violence-against-violence-to-prove-that-violence-is-wrong" approach aka beating the shit out of the perpetrator, then it's not really cool to go ahead and just do it anyway. You know, at the time I was kinda involved in meetings in Ireland, it was very stressful and exhausting and most nights we talked into the early hours about how we felt and "what is to be done" but also tried to remember what the victim/survivor has actually asked to happen. Even in discussions and meetings,

the attitudes, assumptions and stuff that a lot of people expressed brought up a lot of fucked-up attitudes and I reckon these need to be addressed just as much as the actual incident. For example, one opinion kept surfacing that an accusation of sexual assault is not considered legitimate if that person has had sex with multiple partners. These people seemed to forget that there is a difference between CONSENSUAL MUTUAL sex, and unwanted, forced sexual assault. I reckon we should also remember that if someone choose to use the cops and the courts, that's their choice and we need to respect that. At the Belladonna Fest workshop, there was a worker from a women's sexual assault service and she wanted to remind people that even if you don't want to use the courts and the cops for prosecution, there are sometimes benefits to reporting assault, because there is the possibility of accessing high-level counseling services etc.

Patriarchy is far from dead.

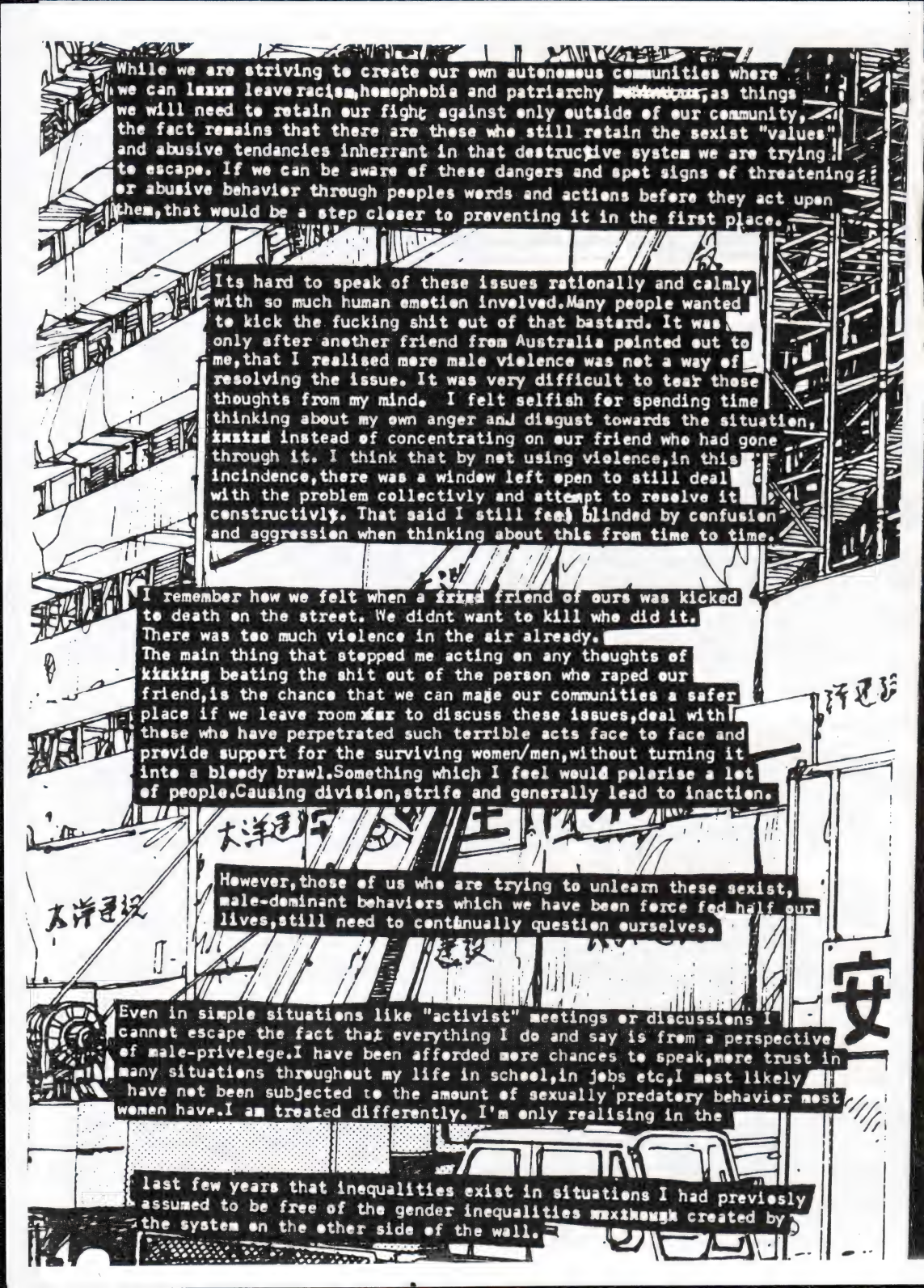
I am definitely of the belief that abuse and disrespect are born out of an environment where certain behavior is not questioned and largely ignored. The misogynistic, spiteful attitudes which are all around us as we grow definitely contribute to this. I hate to look at things in terms of men & women, the same way I hate to look at people in terms of their nationality, ~~color, class, etc.~~ These things people cannot avoid.

I prefer to look at everyone individually. However when certain privileges are extended to one set of people and not another it that has to be acknowledged. I think as men we need to continually question ourselves and each other. We need to question our actions and view them as being extended a male-privilege we may never have noticed. We have come of age in a sickening, twisted world, where powerful men have gauged out their fortunes on the backs of others. Along the way they have used their power to subjugate women, to abuse, to cripple. They have created a "society" where women have had to fight tooth and nail to stand on their own, without an all powerful man behind them. It is this world which we have come out of. We have to realize that even our words can be poison. That, while it may have been a minority of rich, vile and greedy men who created modern patriarchy, its repulsive legacy extends to all men. Once we reject it in all its forms, spit it back in the face of these corrupt and vicious bastards who seek to control our sisters, our mothers, our friends, then maybe we stand a chance at destroying this rotten abuse of power and control.

Last Summer, in a squatted house in Dublin, one of the worst abuses ever committed by someone I once called a friend took place. I will not go into detail. There are already zines in print relating addressing this particular incident and others like it and I don't want to drag it up again for these involved sake.

In short, a much loved and respected friend, visiting from another country allowed someone we thought also to be a friend and trusted activist to luxuriate into her bed to sleep. Over the course of a traumatic and sleepless night, he forced himself upon her. It wasn't until the next day that she really realised that she had been raped.

So much of the safety & security we take for granted in squats, gigs, cafe's, actions etc are based purely on trust. A trust that can so easily be betrayed and manipulated. It is something which threw me into a blind rage which I only took out on a few nearby walls, and saddened me so deeply to see what it had done to such a good friend. Of course only she knows the reality of such an abuse, I can only speak for myself..



While we are striving to create our own autonomous communities where we can learn to overcome racism, homophobia and patriarchy within our communities, as things we will need to retain our fight against only outside of our community, the fact remains that there are those who still retain the sexist "values" and abusive tendencies inherent in that destructive system we are trying to escape. If we can be aware of these dangers and spot signs of threatening or abusive behavior through people's words and actions before they act upon them, that would be a step closer to preventing it in the first place.

It's hard to speak of these issues rationally and calmly with so much human emotion involved. Many people wanted to kick the fucking shit out of that bastard. It was only after another friend from Australia pointed out to me, that I realised more male violence was not a way of resolving the issue. It was very difficult to tear these thoughts from my mind. I felt selfish for spending time thinking about my own anger and disgust towards the situation, instead of concentrating on our friend who had gone through it. I think that by not using violence, in this incidence, there was a window left open to still deal with the problem collectively and attempt to resolve it constructively. That said I still feel blinded by confusion and aggression when thinking about this from time to time.

I remember how we felt when a friend of ours was kicked to death on the street. We didn't want to kill who did it. There was too much violence in the air already. The main thing that stopped me acting on any thoughts of kicking the shit out of the person who raped our friend, is the chance that we can make our communities a safer place if we leave room to discuss these issues, deal with those who have perpetrated such terrible acts face to face and provide support for the surviving women/men, without turning it into a bloody brawl. Something which I feel would polarise a lot of people. Causing division, strife and generally lead to inaction.

However, those of us who are trying to unlearn these sexist, male-dominant behaviors which we have been force fed half our lives, still need to continually question ourselves.

Even in simple situations like "activist" meetings or discussions I cannot escape the fact that everything I do and say is from a perspective of male-privilege. I have been afforded more chances to speak, more trust in many situations throughout my life in school, in jobs etc. I most likely have not been subjected to the amount of sexually predatory behavior most women have. I am treated differently. I'm only realising in the

last few years that inequalities exist in situations I had previously assumed to be free of the gender inequalities which have been created by the system on the other side of the wall.

In relation to single sex organised events, spaces, meetings etc. I think events such as LadyFest, womens groups etc are really important. It is a sad fact that sometimes people can only feel comfortable or safe in and amongst their own gender. Hundreds of years of Patriarchy has left men and women severed, and distrustful of one another.

I understand that to escape male dominated events and a male dominated world in general, some women have taken it upon themselves to organise totally separate from any men to form womens bloc's in protests and events like LadyFest. While I definitely see these as important, I think that as punx we are constantly trying to cut ourselves away from this an oppressive system and create alternatives to it. I think we need to organise together as much as possible. How else are we to destroy the boundaries between the sexes if we do not learn to work together? I would like to think we are somewhat outside of the confines of mainstream thinking, where women and men are bound by the preformatted bullshit traditional roles created hundreds of years ago.. I would LIKE to think we are neither women nor men, just PUNX.

Assuming that most of us have an inherent distrust of systemised healthcare, clinics and government initiatives it seems we need then, to start creating our own alternative resources, building support networks for survivors of rape and other trauma's and finding ways of dealing with these accused of such abuses.

An example of the neglect and sheer ignorance towards these issues in Dublin was the response given to a friend seeking advice after surviving a rape.

A councillor in the Rape Crisis Centre told her that if she was not pregnant then the worst most of her worries were over, offering no other advice or support. In a City centre hospital she was told that if she wanted to be tested for std's and have an examination after a rape/ assault it was mandatory that she first report it to the police and then go on a month long waiting list. If nothing else this illustrates the ignorant and callous attitude towards these extremely important issues in this country. The fact that such a traumatic and personal experience has to be shared with the fucking pigs in order to be treated is ridiculous. Apart from many peoples hatred and mistrust of the police being forced to report such a crime could put the surviving person in severe danger. The perpetrator could be a family member, a drugdealer, a fucking cop! ..So the alternative is not to get tested, not to seek counselling, not to see a doctor or any external help at all. At a community meeting (I say community were referring to the anarchist/punk "community") called to deal with one such situation we came to about 5-6 ways of attempting to deal with this among ourselves.

Obviously there can be no absolute resolution after a rape/sexual assault has occurred. The damage has been done. The ultimate betrayal, a sad and sickening invasion on a person. However we can attempt to move on and continue to work as a community, a collective or xxx a functioning group of friends without ignoring the problem or resorting to telling the police and the criminal justice system.

Some of the solutions which were decided upon at the meeting included, the idea to,

• Start a WOMENS GROUP: to meet regularly and discuss the issue
: to provide support for those who may have undergone sexual abuse or other problems.
: to provide a space where women felt safe to talk of their own experiences and concerns

a MENS GROUP: A resource for men who have experienced sexual abuse
: A space to discuss these issues and start figuring out what we can do to unlearn the sexist patterns of behavior we have been taught to uphold in mainstream society.

Set up JOINED GROUPS: where men and women can discuss these issues together and offer solutions.

To create SAFE SPACES: in houses/squats where people know they can go if they have undergone any trauma especially in their own homes, and feel they have nowhere they can go and feel secure.

To start COMPILING RESOURCES: collect zines, books, films etc. for people to use and inform themselves.

To create a website focussed on providing support and information for those who have undergone forms of sexual abuse or need information on the subject.

Also to PUBLISH A ZINE dealing with these issues and distribute it widely.

This was a really difficult process for us, and something many of us had no experience in. In a country which is recovering from its religious tumour, there is an air of secrecy and even dismissal toward issues of sexism, rape and physical abuse. Problems, which I feel are all interlinked. These are issues which affect both men and women

One way I feel we can hope to combat them and help those who have undergone such terrible harm is by providing support for one another & continually trying to destroy the bullshit gender constraints which threaten to smother us all..

I havnt been reading as many zines as I used to, but thank you to everyone who sent stuff for review. Because of moving houses and other stuff some zines may have got lost or never recieved so i'm sorry if i left ya out..e.

WARNING*1

Crustasfuckexistence as usual from Frank! Great layout, A4 this time, lots of white on black images of punx and war. This is alot more music related than other zines by Frank. Interviews with Blood Spit Nights, Wretched, Kenttatte and the manager of Discharge during the Grave New World tour which was fuckn depressing. The other interviews are great with good pics of the bands. Theres a good piece about the deception and corruption of the media and the state in relation to the war in Iraq, and more.

PO BOX 40113, Portland-City, OR 97240-0113, USA

LUCIDITY*4

Another big zine from edzer. These zines have been growing on me lately..like a fungus..a happy fungus, a sad fungus..but definitely an engaging fungus..ok, no more metapheres for me!

Lucidity has personal pieces on murder in a small village, medication, and being inspired by the fight against fascism through football (escape to victory, dynamite Kiev etc) theres an extensive piece on the history of torture, rants against the dogma of the catholic church and lots more. The writing is complex and potent, it sometimes seems every word has been carefully placed. ed is a zine machine, but unlike a robot everything he writes seems to flow organically, provoking thought and reflection.. there go those fuckn metapheres again..get this.

Ed Hannen, Downings Cross, Prosperous, Naas, Co. Kildare, Eire.

MISHAP*18

Yet another brill issue from Ryan Mishap. Great writing as usual. Stuff on the U.S elections and the importance of community based struggle. stuff about realising inequalities that exist even in small scale examples like the workplace, a piece about Christianity being the subconscious justification for a society based around genocide, stuff about the commodification of skateboarding

and more observations on daily life, all containing subtle relevance to a belief that community based action, resistance and cooperation are just as relevant as a drive towards spontaneous revolution. something i agree with wholeheartedly (is that one word?!) PO BOX 5841, Eugene, OR 97405, USA

mishapzine@yahoo.com

ATTITUDE PROBLEM*34

This is a great zine. In depth interviews with Uro, Pilger, Severed Head of State, and Born Dead, all with truly interesting, thought provoking questions, written pieces on the fur trade, zine/record reviews, recipes and more. The layout is hand written, cut n paste, in a really clear and readable way, adding to the obviously heart-felt and passionate way Steve approaches zine writing.

Filled with emotion, anger and honesty. This has to be one of my favorite zines..

P.O Box 326, Leeds, LS7 3YR, ENGLAND veganwarrior@yahoo.com

LOSERDOM *12

Another jammer's issue from this long running Irish zine. great illustrations as usual with many uncannily familiar faces this time! there's stuff about MayDay in Dublin '04, a piece about West Papua, cycle stories, well written pieces about anti war actions in shannon, and an exploration essay on subculture, mainly punk with some good interviews with local punx..(who jibbed at me and corny for havin studs n patches ha!) There's also a great cycle comic featuring many well known scutherbuckets from about town..good stuff. Anto, 17 new Cabra Road, Phibsboro, Dublin 7, Ireland

THE STRANGE & FABULOUS LIFE OF A DUBLIN SHITPIECE

This zine is a breath of fresh air..well a breath of odd, dirty air, which surprisingly left me gasping for more! If you need a break from the 'usual' in the form of a zine that celebrates the quirky experiences of city life, get this.

Whimsical anecdotes of haunted punk houses,

junkie street fights, wierd coincidences and lots more..

The illustration is nothing short of amazing. Each page is meticulously decorated with detailed shapes & blobs, which make up contorted faces, mangled bodies, entities and extremities of every form. These pictures are both disturbing and hilarious. I actually laughed out loud at some & said 'ooughh!!' 'o ut loud too! a perfect accompaniment to the engaging writing style.

vhearsee@yahoo.co.uk
@ 40, MOUNTJOY STREET, DUBLIN 7, IRELAND.

DARKSPHERE PROJECT: ELEMENTS

A deeply personal and refreshingly honest and open zine from Dublin. The cover is really nice, using trace paper and card and you can see it took time. There's stuff here about the Magpie Squat in Dublin, which was both painful and heartwarming to read, pieces about death, depression and the human condition, which were also gut wrenching, but not hopeless. There's also a piece on the G8 "world order" and some small poems. Amazingxfkrtxx +more!

I hope I see more of these. aracegeneinsane@hotmail.com

WHAT TO DO WHEN?

This zine, as it says on the cover, is about "community response to sexual assault". This was reprinted over here as a response to such incidents in our own scene, and I feel it is definitely a valuable resource. There's an extensive piece about the three rape cases that occurred at Pointless Fest in Phillie and ways which the people there tried to deal with them, a piece about an individual who sexually assaulted 3 women and the demands made by them for him to hold himself accountable, lots more guidelines on how a community can try to deal with those who perpetrate this behavior without depending on the justice system and also ways of supporting the survivors of such actions. This zine is really in depth and thorough and I feel I can't do it justice in a brief review. I can't stress enough how important things like this are.

sophiesucks@hotmail.com (Australia)

sparkle_303@yahoo.com (Europe)

HERE'S TO ADVENTURE, JUST FOR THE HELL OF IT/
ANYWHERE BUT HERE, NOWHERE FAST .split-zine

This is a generous split travel zine from Kylie & Sophie in Australia. Kylie's side is packed with really well written tales and rants that range from the tragic to the downright heartwarming. While I generally don't enjoy entirely personal zines, Kylie breaks the mold and makes this zine really accessible.

Sophie's side is great too. All sloppy like a scrap book in parts, but not difficult to read. There's tales from Scotland, Ireland and all over Europe, really showing how much stuff Sophie got involved in. Loads of tales of punx they met along the road, squats, festivals, etc. This zine has a perfect balance of hate (towards the baddies) and love

(towards the goodies).
Lots of great photos too..

A mix of inspiring, political actions, filthy drunken tales and the travels of Aussie punx invading Europe..great!

sophiesucks@hotmail.com

and loads more. The story of the "Winter Hitch", made me feel like I was frost bitten on the side of a miserable Irish road in seconds..A great zine to read while travelling especially.

MORGENMUFFEL: *12

Really nicely illustrated zine from Brighton. Its pretty much all cartoons with stuff ranging from Isy's fear of heights, a tale of a W. Papua refugee in the UK, stuff about their social centre the cewly club (which we visited, 'tis great!) drunken stories and sick stories and more. Its great that in the same comic there's a strip about yeast infections and another about fighting cops: great! PO BOX 74, Brighton, BN1 4ZQ, England.

THE GOBLIN

This zine was just what i needed. Refreshing and original, the Goblin is a perfectly laid out & illustrated collection of thoughts and words including pieces about the plastification and gettrification of Oakland, a short history of the controversial artist George Grosz & his work during Nazi Germany, and a piece about the sheer joy of being a 'rustic' cider drinker + the drinks origins & history. Theres also stuff about Sean's attempts to bring CHAOS DAYS IQ to the U.S, reviews on everything from pigeons to the evil fungus quern to Emperer..at last reviews i actually enjoyed! Theres loads more and i have to say again the art is amazing. Lots of crusty little punk urchins scampering about woods and other archaic looking landscapes..a perfect mix of bulletbelts & toadsteals..xxxxxx brilliant.
www.goblinke.com

FURIA*4

Great crusty cut n paste zine, written by a Brazilian living in Finland. Lots of great photos of spikey punk, a London scene report, record reviews, a good interview with INEPSY, tales of gigs and drunkenness and gigs in Finland and some more personal stuff.

c/o Diana Takehana, Metsämiehentie
Metsämiehentie 6, 33340, Tampere, FINLAND
xarepeira@hotmail.com

BITE THE HAND THAT FEEDS THE POISONED FOOD*2

Wierd that on the other side of this zine is this zine! but i'm fuckn reviewing it cuz its deadly. Another monster issue from cormy. Theres an interview with squatters from the Maggie House in Dublin, a Copenhagen scene report, a great interview with the Bagda, with really interesting questions, an interview with the ever hard working and Active punk in the Irish scene, Coner, and an interview with Die Kreutzen, which was a great idea and really informative.

Cormy writes the things many of us have trouble saying, in an honest, thought provoking way. The piece about "why i hate cops" made me seethe, but was great to read so many of the emotions i feel towards the pigs on paper. Theres also some great, fucked up travel stories from all over europe east and west, with a fine dollop of chaos, record/zine reviews, and a piece about a fight in Dublin outside a gig which raised alot of concerning questions about punk fighting back. There is also a piece about 'punk fashion' vs the idea that 'looking punk' ie studs, patches, blah blah can help to strengthen this community, or at least make you feel more comfortable in yourself, help other punk to recognise ya etc, feel protected from the bastards on the street etc.. ok i've gone on enough, great layout, great content, my favorite Irish punk zine.

PO BOX604, 2200 Kopenhagen, DENMARK

razethestray@hotmail.com



SURVIVE

IN PACKS WE

WEIGH UPON OUR BACKS.

EVEN WHEN THEIR BUILDINGS

NEVER BOWING DOWN,

THORNS IN THEIR FLESH WE MUST REMAIN.

The young are slowly smothered by incessant screaming teachers, spiteful
vitrinolic priests and the stinking breath of bullying cops, as they tear
their minds to shreds, with worn out words, hateful promises and malicious
threats. Any chance at escaping this banal descent into submission to those
who try to rule us should be, and is embraced

If anything Halloween should be celebrated for the chaos of youth,
those last unbridled shades of spirit which still lie beneath our skin,
borne out of the Celtic Festival of the Dead it has escaped the clutches
of the Church & State, and still remains a celebration of the darker

hidden realities of life and death.
Like punk it is a physical manifestation

of all the filth of humanity,

the "dirt behind the daydream",

the vermin of the city, nobody wants to see.

I hope the Irish Punk in Copenhagen

can introduce our friends there to

this Day of the Dead,

this celebration of all that is unseen,

ignored & forgotten.

It is an outburst of rage

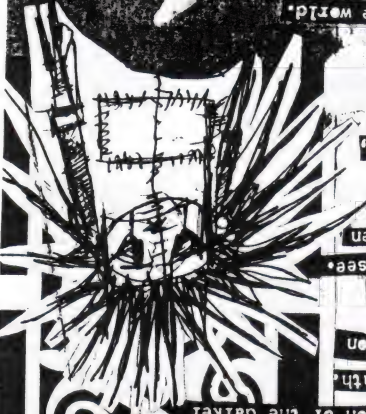
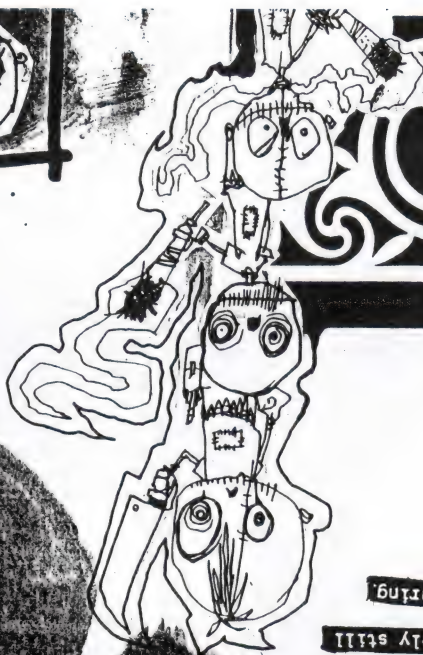
and a festival all at once,

A dirty spark in a corner of the world.

the fires of Samhain

are definitely still

smouldering.





In the cities, any trace of imagination and hope seems slowly eroded, crushed from our bodies by shadows of faceless concrete buildings, rearing choking traffic, television idleness and consumer lies

who is just as lost as everyone else.

the bastard ideas of another corrupted adult, "corrected" and converted into a confined idea of normalcy

of coercion & control, where child after child are subjugated in the cogs & the gears of a relentless system

is stifled, where peoples desires, dreams are chewed up for kids, a splinter in the flesh of a world where individuality

Halloween is in my mind, an extremely empowering and positive time

dead, this swirling of worlds, underworld that seems an awful lot closer on this night of the

pressed as ghasts and demons, reveling in the horrors of an

the younger ones rearing the streets

lighting up a neon stained sky with colour

of societies excesses,

whirling round gigantic flaming

Playing in the dead hours of the night

so many children enjoying themselves at their own will.

Along side this, however, it is amazing to see

the fuck out of me were not going to go away, and I just had to avoid them

The same way as I accepted the fact that the older lads who wanted to beat

synonymous with my view of Halloween.

and was enraged byt even as a ten year old runt, I never let it become

While I always found the slaying of household pets at this time, abhorrent

Vandalism

spent fireworks everywhere and just a general increased amount of random

a small war had taken place. Patches of scorched earth, burnt out cars, it

Cycling through the city on November 1st is always surreal. It is as if

speclighting it until the squad cars came...

20 teenagers on each side spewing out onto the street, with the police helicopter

hill towards the houses that backed onto it, fights erupting between

Setting huge felled trees in the park on fire and rolling them down a

robbed from a pub, causing an explosion that could be seen a mile away.

causing complete mayhem, blowing up a pile of gas cylinders they had

a bonfire until it burned to death. I remember older kids in my area

harmless horse who had previously kicked a child, being tied to a pole in

more vicious than usual. One sickening story I heard recently involved a

in a front porch, kids getting the shit kicked out of them with seemingly

plyons by some local bastards, cats being literally blown to pieces

Utahs... far from it. I remember cats being thrown into electrically

that by taking this temporary freedom, Dublin kids act out some anarchy

flashing side to Halloween and I'm not going to inter for a second

There is of course an anti-social, sometimes



On the weeks coming up to the 31st of October kids in Dublin City set fire to huge bonfires, some the height of a house on any scrap of open grass or wasteland in their own corners of the city. For weeks beforehand wood and anything else flammable is collected found and robbed from buildings in all ways, and other kids stash piles. Fireworks of any kind are completely illegal in Ireland but in the town centres street sellers peddle smuggled bangs, rockets, repeaters and screamers to anyone who wants to blow something up. For one night the Police are afraid. The city lights up, and fires blaze in every direction, kids run riot & no one can really stop them.

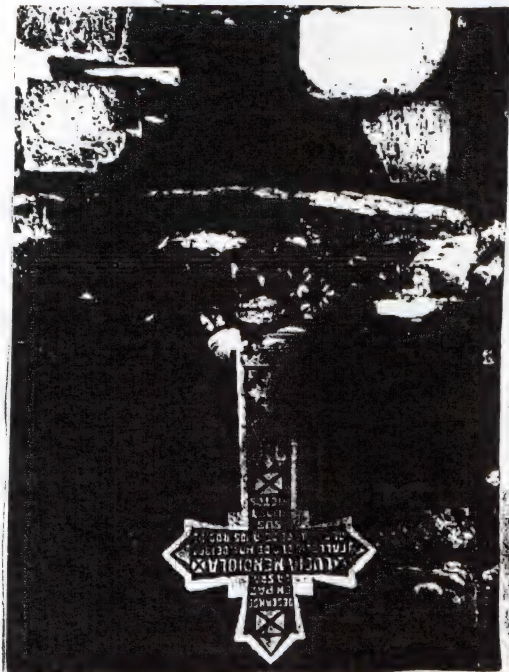
Dublin's city centre is a dark and congested place, shops, flats & houses thrown together in a mangled collision of business and homestead. The suburbs are endless, identical houses giving way every few miles to monolithic shopping centres, patches of wasteland, car-parks and strips of motorway gouged between the housing estates.

There are few places for children to actually go. If they do find somewhere they are generally told to get out and stay out. Police harass and even beat up kids who hang around after dark if they feel like it. Pool halls, arcades, swimming pools, etc cost lots of money as do the clubs only 2 skateparks, which you could have to travel 15 miles to get to from some areas.

Halloween gives kids an opportunity to take back the night for themselves, a night where societal norms are uprooted, a night of lawlessness, when the streets transform into a chaotic playground, instead of the dull forbidden swaths of tarmac they usually are.

Looking back on it, Halloween was definitely empowering as a kid. Making huge fires, buying fireworks off shady men in dodgy markets, thinking I was part of some huge conspiracy... blowing up bins & milk bottles with homemade bombs, having small scale wars with other kids shooting rockets at one another, sneaking into the football ground and running around listening to the explosions resonate round the huge concrete stands.

It is interesting to note other cultures with a similar celebration. One example is the Mexican "Day of the Dead" or "Día de los Muertos". This is a day where families remember their dead and the continuity of life, very similar to the Celtic tradition. The celebration can be traced back to Mesoamerica native traditions, such as the Aztec month of "Miccaihuitontli". The Day of the Dead is traditionally a time of welcoming the deceased back into the homes they once lived and visiting their graves. This also involves tending to the gravesite, preparing meals, (featuring macabre themes such as skull shaped confections and the essential "Pan de Muerto" or Bread of the Dead) In Oaxaca a variation of this bread is molded into the shape of a body in burial wrap. In homes where the tradition is still honored, altars are made regularly arranging Marigolds, the "Flowers of the Dead", and decorated with items the deceased is believed to find beautiful, or to remind them of home such as photographs, clothing etc. Typically in some indigenous communities the path from the street to the altar is covered in petals to guide the returning spirit, much like some of the reasons behind lighting Jare fires in ancient Ireland & Scotland.



This macabre celebration of the dead, of an underworld and the chaotic currents that lie beneath a seemingly ordered world, is still rekindled every year on the streets of Dublin and all around Ireland. It has been commercialised, Americanised, bought & sold 1000 times, but still in they have not managed to tame the true nature of Halloween, Samhain. It is one day in the year where the young literally take back the very cities which bear down upon them in all their filthy grey, every other day..

Faerie cavalades and funerals were also said to take place around this dark time of year and were closely associated with the dead. The faeries were said to guide the dead souls to the otherworld, but at this time, could also take any of the living with them too if they came within their path. All the harvests would also have to be gathered for if anything was remaining the faeries would blast every growing plant with their breath, blighting any nuts and berries remaining on the hedgerows.

Many of today's seemingly arbitrary "Hallowe'en" traditions

can be seen to be derived from the ancient Celtic Feast.

An example of this is "Bobbing for

Apples", which is said to be a reference to

or Paradise of Apples, where the dead became immortal

by eating of the sacred fruit. This was also a fruit whose

tree was often associated with the Otherworld and everlasting

life.

With the invasion of Christianity on the Pagan peoples,

Samhain along with many other traditional festivals and

customs, was hijacked in an attempt to force religion on those who celebrated it.

With the might of the Monarchy behind it, a new Christian power began a campaign of Crusades and Religious War. Followers of the Pagan practices were branded

as witches and heretics.

The druids, who had acted as spiritual guides, scholars, scientists, doctors and

poets were demonised, subjugated and virtually wiped out.

Samhain was eventually changed to "Hallowmass" or "All Saints Day", to

"commemorate the souls of the blessed dead". The Church finally forced

its blessing upon Samhain in 837 A.D., where November 1st was designated

"The Feast of All Saints".

The same approach was used to abolish the Mid-Winter celebration

of many peoples by assigning Christmas to the date of Dec 25th.

However the powerful belief systems and symbolism of Samhain,

rooted in the idea of the travelling dead, transition of time

and mergeance with the Otherworld, proved too strong for complete

amalgamation by the Christian Church.

In 601 A.D., Pope Gregory I issued a famous edict which stated that to convert native peoples of the new christian controlled countries the Church should not obliterate peoples customs but rather use them;

If a tree was worshipped in a community he advised his missionaries to consecrate it to Christ and continue its worship, rather than cut it down. It is here that so much meaning and significance relating to the respect and preservation of the natural world was lost. Replaced, only, by the violent and finalistic notions of Rome.



Last Halloween was my first ever away from Dublin. I was in Copenhagen, which while usually a lively and inspiring place for a punk, was dead as a doornail on Halloween night.

As we wandered around the Danish capital, looking for trouble, my mind drifted back to times of illegal fireworks, 30ft high bonfires, ghoul children roaming the streets and homemade bombs...

"Samhain" was the most important of all Celtic festivals. This date divided the year into two specific seasons, two contrary forces of nature. Darkness/light, Death/life. "Beltane on May 1st and Samhain on November 1st. The Celtic Year began with An Gaeamhraidh, winter and ended with An Faghar, the Harvest Season. Samhain marked the beginning of this New Year.

Communities would gather to slaughter cattle for the feast as well as sacrifice in thanksgiving for the previous year and to aid a fruitful winter harvest. Large fires were lit at the ritual centres of the tribes such as Tara in Ireland. Brands were then lit from these central fires and to bond each family in the community. It is said that the bones of the slaughtered animals were cast into the fire, and this is where the word bonfire of "bone-fire" is derived.

After the festival, the ashes from the fires were cast over the fields to protect them from the harsh winter months ahead. The fires were also used as a symbol to honour the dead and aid them on their journey.

This was a time when the wandering dead were seen to be travelling to the Otherworld, and it was this transition which was reflected in the changing of the seasons.

This intertwining of life and death is represented in Celtic knotwork design as well. Knotwork was also seen as protection against evil spirits, who would seek to capture the departing soul as they travelled to the otherworld. The knotwork was seen to confuse the evil spirit like a maze. The festival was also seen as a "gap" in time "where the physical world and the spiritual world merged on the cusp of the old and new year. Hospitality was shown to the returning dead with food and drink left out overnight as offerings, and doors and gates left unlocked.

Many supernatural creatures were said to roam on this feast day such as faeries or the "Slaugh". It was believed these creatures had the power to carry away fresh corpses for their own ends and it was because of this that the "bler" on which the coffin is rested at a funeral, was smashed after the ceremony, to prevent this.

CHAO
YOUTH
TAKE
BACK
THE
STREETS

SAMHAIN

THE
SKY
HAS
BEEN
CUT
UP
BY

STEPPING THROUGH THE CINDERS OF DOVES, OUR FOOTPRINT
LEAVE A TRAIL OF OUR IGNORANCE
THE SHADOW OF THE GREAT HUMAN TRAGEDY
CASTING DARKNESS OVER A FUTURE THAT IS FADING FAST

THE CLOCKS SEEM TO TICK FASTER
IN THESE HOPELESS TIMES
COUNTING DOWN INSTEAD OF ONWARD
THEIR CHIMES LIKE HOLLOW LAUGHTER,
GACKLING AT THE SIGHT OF SUCH DECAY
THERE IS A DEATH-MASK IN
THE FACE OF EVERY CHILD
BORN INTO SUCH DESPAIR
SCREAMING AS THEY ARE DRAGGED
INTO SUCH
DECAY..

No class No.2, A5, 16pgs.

Very short zine with a short interview with what Happens Next? and a longer, better one with Bob Byrne, an underground comics artist from Ireland whose shitix is damn good. Some reviews and some short thoughts on violence and loneliness/discomfort in social situations. This would be a good zine with more time and effort put into it... says ~~Ed~~ ~~xxxx~~ that there was supposed to be a Busted Heads Records & Subhumans interview but they wouldn't fit, I reckon they would easily have fit with better layout and use of space. The Bob Byrne interview is pretty good, if there was a bit more put into the layouts as with that interview this would be quite good. Colin, 17 Castleknock Wood, ~~xxxx~~ Laurel Lodge, Castleknock, Dublin 15, Eire.

Lucidity No.5, A5, 42pgs.

This is a fucking great zine, and probably my favourite of all the issues of Lucidity so far. It's totally evident how Ed's style of

writing is evolving and growing better & better over the years. The main theme of this zine is Ed's experience of getting all his teeth pulled out and getting a new set of teeth over about 6 months. There's also pieces on the morality of the Catholic/Christian Good/evil, God/Devil mode of thinking and how fucked it is, some different prose/poetry bits and an overdu but



Very welcome ode to tea about how much I better it is ~~xx~~ than ~~xxxx~~ and Edsers love relationship. But

the majority of it is the story of, background to and personal feelings on Ed's ~~xxxxxx~~ decision to get re-teethed, and that's the best part. It's written really well, totally open and frank, like a conversation with a good friend, and illustrates more than just Ed's own personal struggle, in that it serves also to portray one person's struggle to overcome a deep-set problem in their own life and ~~xxxxxx~~ succeed. Fucking deadly! Ed Hannon, Downings 88 Cross, Prosperous, Naas, Co. Kildare, Eire.

www.zinetrade.net

The Goblin No.1, 60pgs.

Wow, totally great shit here! This is printed in a really cool 4" x 4" square. It's basically Sean's the author's viewpoints on

various things combined into a number of political & personal pieces. There's stuff on Sean's introduction to punk and development in the early 90's East Bay scene and reflections on this, and also on the gentrification of Oakland & where he lives. Some pieces about German agitator George Grosz, Chaos Days USA (which Sean played a large part in), CIDER, roleplaying/fantasy/sci-fi

games (hell yeah!) and a load of informal and informative reviews of stuff like various magazines & books, candy cigarettes, pigeons, quorn, licorice, old Metallica & Emperor albums and various other stuff. Also loads of fucking cool drawings of Sean's and all laid out in a really cool way.

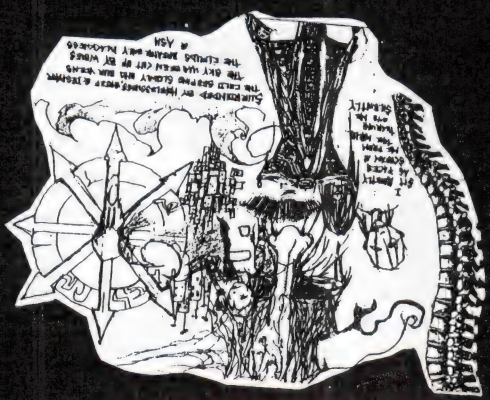
Really hpe to see more issues of this. Check www.Goblinko.com for new address.

This Frantic Silence, A5, 28 pgs.

This is a one-off (with the possibility of a follow-up) project, described as "A D.I.Y. zine dealing with issues of depression, Anxiety, Suicide & Mental Health". It's a collection of pieces by different people, compiled and laid out by Eric. There's about 15 from different angles and accompanied by with various dark and

not-so-dark imagery. There's poetry and prose pieces of a negative slant, ideas and tactics for overcoming depression, personal descriptions of experiences and struggles and collages of words & drawings. Some pieces I found helpful, others not so much so, some I liked, others I didn't, but all of them served to give me insight into other peoples' struggles with hopelessness and mental strife which are so seldom talked about. A valuable resource.

sparkie_303(a)yahoo.com



Issue No.3 of this zine that's becoming a regularly anticipated favourite of mine from the Irish scene. Strongly and unashamedly influenced by the Cometary rabble, this seizes it's own identity from the everyday occurrences of Turlogue's own life and has it's own distinct buzz going on. I love when you read someone's zine and it feels like an insight into their head, especially when it's a friends and you're being let into their own private world. Punk in attitude and personal in content, this is a collection firstly of 10 short stories about Turlogue's life, ~~xxxx~~ friends, past, thoughts and travels, some of which are really touching, just kinda hit the spot, y'know? There's this really great piece on the history of Kilcoole, the village where Turlogue's from, that strikes a really good balance between stating the facts and giving funny, slangy descriptions (John Kennedy was a bloke who at the time of the 1798 rebellion worked his da's mill. The mill was down where the wall is in the Beachdale Field, another fond drinkin' spot. Kennedy was a sworn United Irishman, who one day let a guy named James Toner stash gunpowder in the mill. Later Kennedy rattled him out to the pigs for some reason", it goes on, gets funnier, fuck, I better stop or I'd ~~xxx~~ just go and reprint the whole thing...no, I can't! -Okay, let's go back further again. In 1022 the Vikings rowed their huge, scary-as-fuck longboats onto the beach between Greystones and Kilcoole, probably where we used to spraypaint on the old buildings - it's this mix of the personal & familiar with ~~xxx~~ the historical & fantastical that makes this great). There's another amazing piece written by Stephen who plays in a band with Turlogue about a sad episode in his ~~xxxx~~ (with a happy ending), really open and painful, really good though. Lots of other ~~xx~~ pieces including a far too "rose-tinted" case study on "What Happened To Summer?" It was just the same boss, only you don't recall all the shitness and misery of being a teenager! Great zine, check it out for sure.

From Loserdom #13

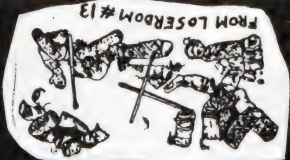


Loserdom No.12, A5, 44pgs.

Cool diverse zine printed on nice paper with various writings on cycling, activism and anti-war demonstrations, the Mayday demos last year in Ireland, nutrition, fair trade, West Papua and various other issues. Also lots of cool little stories of Anto & Eugene's adventures and comics that are really nice, and a large piece on the punk subculture with some interviews with Anto. Lots of stuff here in A & E's own inimitable styles, this is a good DIY zine - fierce, boss!

Anto, 17 New Cabra Road, Phibsboro, Dublin 7, Eire.

From Loserdom #13



ZINES

Protest No.666, A5, 20pgs.
This is a good solid zine, crusty anarcho type stuff. Short but still long enough to be a proper read. Rare in that it's a small DIY zine all done and computer and doesn't look shifty! Sean's got the skills to do this all on computer and still make it look good. A relaxed informal interview with Discharge and other short interviews with Gurkha, Laspa Measa, Langdon Beck and Extinction of Mankind. My favourite part was definitely the piece on hitch-hiking - good stories well written. Also short pieces on the infamous Vietnam war general Nguyen Ngoc Loan, a recipe for banana ~~xxxxx~~ omelette, a piece on anarchoist Guy Aldred and a page about censorship. All good stuff, only thing I'd like to see changed is some more descriptiveness in the reviews & some more personal/challenging questions in the x interviews. protestzine(a)yahoo.com, <http://protestzine.cb.net>

Attitude Problem No.34, A5, 40pgs.
Another issue of the excellent A.P.

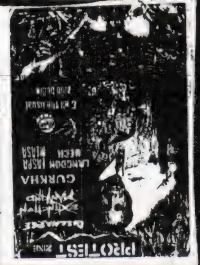
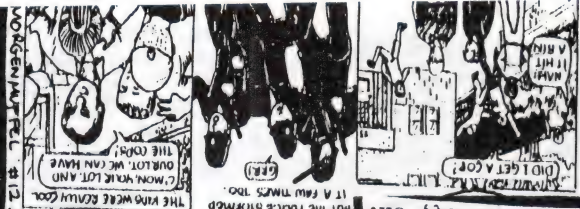
This is my favourite zine out of the UK at the moment,

from the layout and aesthetic to the content, opinions and personal feel to it, it's exactly the kind of zine I'm really into. Interviews this time 'round with Uro, Pigger, Severed Head of State and Born/Dead. Also various writings on the war in Iraq, Veganism, animal rights and environmentalist. Really

Sincere and relevant, one for the anarcho/peace-punk/crusty motos PO Box 326, Leeds LS7 3YR, UK.

Morgenmutterl No.12, A5, 26pgs.

This is one of the best zines I've gotten in ages, really exciting and refreshing! It's a load of writings, opinions and stories illustrated in comic form about Isy's everyday life. It's about 50/50 drawings & writings, really well-balanced, on one side talks about things like the DSEI weapons fair protests in London, her anarchist prisoner pals, yeast infections (bleargh!), the West Papuan struggle, and on the other side things like Isy's involvement in the autonomous Cowley Club (social centre) in Brighton, her crap jobs, drunken exploits, sickness, book reviews, etc. The thing is that the personal and political constantly intersect with each other, and are written and illustrated in a really informal & disarming manner and really draw you in. There's a lot more in here than in most zines of the same x size. I just recently got the anthology of No.2-II and its totally great too.
PO Box 74, Brighton BN142Q, UK.



AT MY MASTERS ARE DEAD

NO REST UNTIL

STAINED WITH BLOOD,

EARTHWORMS, BENEATH THE GRASS HE

WILL ONLY SERVE TO POISON A FEW

BUT INSTEAD HIS PAMPERED FLESH

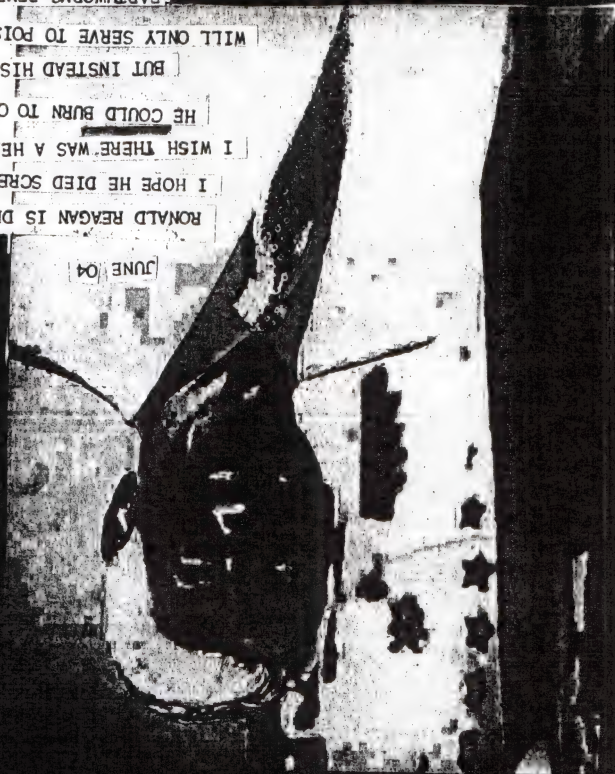
HE COULD BURN TO CINDERS

I WISH THERE WAS A HELL WHERE

I HOPE HE DIED SCREAMING.

RONALD REAGAN IS DEAD.

JUNE 04

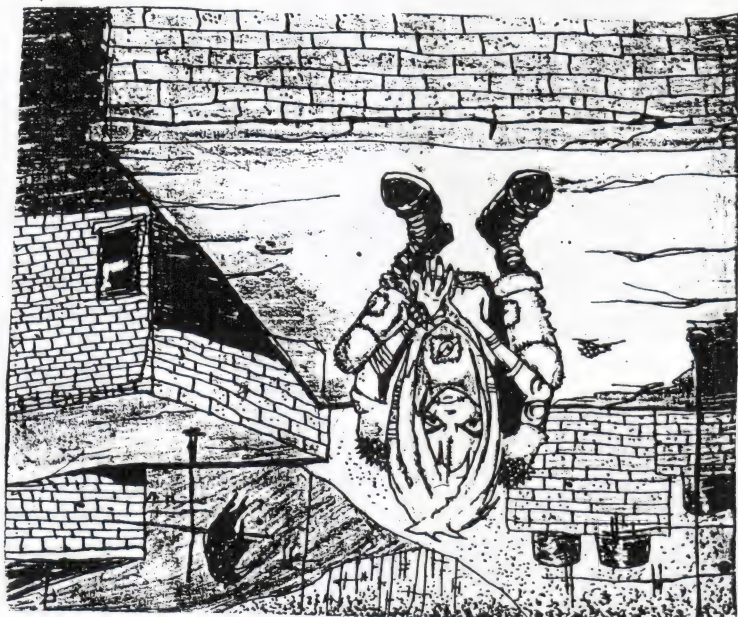


"Yeah, it's totally gay" when describing a movie or record

or whatever that they don't like, well that just sounds

really funny, that someone would use that to mean

there's something wrong with it - "yeah man, that record totally prefers having sex with it's own gender and a stuff". I dunno, I think it's hard to grasp and pisses me off as much as it amuses me, I'm not trying to make excuses for it, just trying to explain it. But people really do go too far with it. A recent ~~xxxx~~ example was when a guy involved in the Dublin punk scene was having a light-hearted argument with a friend who's a girl. "shut up or I'll rape you". Supposedly a joke... I was totally shocked and speechless when I heard this. Even worse, a number of people to defend it cos "it was only a joke", "ah, he's an alright guy really", etc. Now anyone who knows me is very much aware that I've got a pretty black sense of humour that can be pretty offensive to some people, but fuck... how far past the line can you possibly go? I don't know how anyone can feel okay about saying that or someone else saying that to



someone? It really disgusts me when people use a word like "rape" lightly, like in discussing a fuckin sports game or business acquisition or even in political writing, environmentalism and that (but obviously not so much as when it's an everyday word). I think people should ~~xxx~~ be more able to confront others about sexist speech & behaviour, especially guys when other guys say shit like that, or are speaking over women all the time (or even try to notice if you do it yourself?), or are being pervy fuckers or dancing in a way that prevents others from enjoying a gig because they're getting bashed around. People just should never be let get away with (or have to put up with) this shit.

Also I think from my own growing awareness of & disgust with how people act inappropriately towards women.

Anyway, I just tried to ignore it, but I still felt kind of

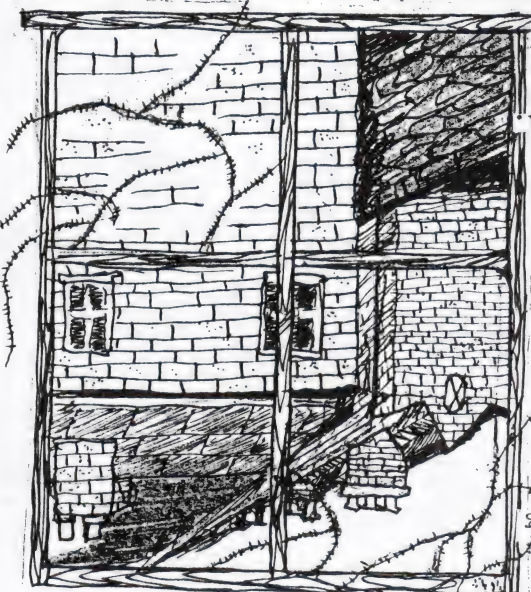
surprised and stiff and uncomfortable and quite self-conscious, and I noticed that after a while Dayana seemed not to do it so often, with others too, it just made me feel really crap. Then when I moved to Copenhagen it was whoomp! right in my face, since the punk here are in general a lot closer and make unabashedly physical with one, like just random signs of affection whenever you meet or whenever. It's so nice and the contrast between here and the way people are towards each other in Ireland or wherever is really noticeable. I just can't emphasise enough how nice it is, it really gives me this really warm feeling and helps a lot whenever you're feeling shitty and down. So I totally fuckin' curse myself for being so weird and uptight about it sometimes, cos I really don't want to be, the same shit, just afraid that it'll seem weird like an unwanted advance or some pervy shit, that the longer I'm here the easier I find it, it's a lot easier with boys actually, but anyway, I still feel all doubtful and weird about it sometimes. So weird, I really really like this kind of non-sexual physical contact & affection, but I guess I'm 1500 years of Christian oppression doesn't fall away like magic, I'm just afraid that I've already given people the impression that I don't like it by being weird in the past.

Something else that I've noticed is the domination of men in discussions and so on. I've especially noticed this since reading a piece in Kyllie's zine, personally Liberation Front, about sexism. If you take a step back and observe most discussions and social interactions, it's most often dominated by males, with louder voices, interruptions, speaking over others, etc, often quite forcefully. Another aspect of this is with humour, Irish people in particular are cursed/blessed with a sense of humour that basically takes the piss out of everything. Irish punx, presumably from an unconscious opposition to dominant social norms, do so even more. So while in some cases this has a positive effect in that "nothing is sacred", in others it goes way too far.

What other people don't realise, with their possible exception of many Australian punks I've met (who seem to share a similar sense of humour), is that the humour is largely comprised of irony & sarcasm mixed with taking the piss out of absolutely everything. So, if someone (punk) makes a stupid/racist/sexist/homophobic joke, it's often from the perspective that holding such a racist/sexist/homophobic opinion ~~xxx~~ in-and-of-itself is so stupid, that it's hilarious that anyone could say & mean those things, and that's where the humour comes from: ~~xxx~~ e.g., the way that a "norm" might describe something as "gay", if they think it's shitty.

I was recently in the position where someone I'd had sex with a few months previous wanted to do it again, but I didn't want to. This was pretty strange for me since it was the first time I'd ever been in such a situation. I tried to find various reasons to tell her, I didn't want to hurt her feelings or give her the impression I didn't find her attractive or whatever, but I felt really ~~xxx~~ pushed back into a corner and didn't know how to deal with it, as I imagine how girls probably often feel in their role of the male being the sexual predator and female being prey... Just the awkwardness and uncomfortableness of someone being verbally pushy when you've made it clear how you feel about it. It had the effect of being a further "widening of their lens" in regard to what constitutes sexual ~~xxxxxx~~ intimidation or coercion, and how shitty it can feel even when it's not & has no possibility of being physically threatening. But I have the impression ~~xxxxxx~~ that the common shared-experience is quite different for girls ~~xxx~~ it is for boys. Most girls are pretty well aware of how vulnerable they are when they're drunk (or quickly become aware when they start drinking around men) in a way that boys don't really have to consider or are able to more easily disregard. People's boundaries of what's acceptable behaviour by and towards yourself drastically changes when drunk, and the same is true of sexual boundaries. But what can you do about it, it's all relative to the individual? I dunno, I guess just not drink, or else have totally solid boundaries that you're confident you can depend on, or if you're male than just be a lot more hesitant about initiating sexual intimacy (etc) than society in general compels and expects you to be...

For this part I want to go back to the issue of all of us suffering from sexual violence, intimidation, assault, coercion and sexism in general. As already mentioned, this incident has left me with a lot of self-doubt and insecurity and disgust with males in general - especially by the fact that this happened in a squat in the anarchist environment, something that I'd naively believed to be something of a safe-haven from these threats. This has made me think more & more about and become more & more aware of how I relate to women in general. A particular point is physically, my mind is in relation to friends. The first time I really experienced this was in becoming friends with Dayana, a girl from Brazil who moved to Dublin and lived in the Magpie Squat (she's also interviewed in this issue). She was friendly & affectionate in more physical way than I'd ever before encountered, in that she'd often hug you or some other affectionate gesture whenever you met or were leaving in a warm, ungrammatical kind of way. I thought it was so nice yet it still totally freaked me out... as stupid as it sounds, I was constantly afraid that ~~xx~~ I'd touch her in some way that made her uncomfortable, I dunno, fuck, this feels really hard to say, but put my hand too low or touch her breasts or something? This feels so stupid to write. I don't know where this comes from.



As much as I'd like to think that "I'm not that kind of guy", maybe they'd still feel that I'd get angry or

threatening, or just afraid of hurting my feelings, ego or reputation, and thus said nothing? A lot of people automatically equate sexual violence, assault and rape with physical force alone, but it's only recently that I've begun to consider the co-ercive side to it and the issue of different peoples limits. I guess this is something that most girls are more aware of from, sadly, probably quite a young age, but I suppose you can't be aware of something if you haven't had to experience it or talked about it been thought about it. People still argue about having basic "how you do it" type sex-education in schools, never mind the real issues which people need to consider. The incident I talked about above where I was felt and felt myself to have acted unfairly and ~~xxxxxxx~~ co-ercively brings up another issue. Is there any difference between ~~xxx~~ "convincing" someone to have sex with you and coercing them into it? I know that probably most girls had at some point had sex where they've felt pressured into it and unsure of themselves, and that from a young age each gender is forced into their roles of male as sexual predator and female as prey, and supposed to "guard their chastity" and be a nice pure bride for their husband (who's encouraged to fuck off and "sow" their wild oats). I guess this probably does have an effect on how different people come to regard sex. I don't know. And I guess no matter how "socialised" into your roles you are, you can only challenge them yourself as far as you personally want to and feel comfortable with. So then, I suppose there's no limit at which coercion begins, that any "convincing" at all is or potentially is coercion, Christ... what a minefield. I guess all you can do is tell someone how you feel. Maybe I'll just join in a fuckin monastery.

Something else which occurs to me about the issue of peoples boundaries and sexual relations in general is the role alcohol plays. I was talking about this to a friend recently and ~~xx~~ realised that it's been, I think, over 5 years since the last time I was sober when I kissed or had sex with someone for the first time, or tried it on... usually COMPLETELY un-sober, in fact really fuckin drunk. That's fuckin mental, makes me feel pretty fucked. It it came down to it, ~~xxxxxxx~~ I'm sure I could compel myself to express myself whilst not under the influence, it it was someone I was sure I was really into and had been for a length of time, but the fact is that I haven't. I guess it's the only way I've gotten the courage & the confidence to try it on with people and say things I'd otherwise NEVER be able to say (which, in retrospect, wouldn't be such a ~~xxx~~ bad thing in some cases...), but, I dunno, is it necessarily a bad thing or is it something to just be accepted and shrugged over the ~~xxxx~~ Some of my, em, "illusions" haven't seemed like such a good idea over the ~~xxxx~~ course of the following few days, but I guess I don't regret any of them anyway, the point being that you can tend to see things rather differently when you're... eh... pissed. This could be in the form of doing something you usually wouldn't do, going along with something you're not really into, acting a way you wouldn't usually act, and so on, both for better and for worse (worse...), Examples of either aren't necessary (as amusing as they may be), you've all got your own experiences of yourselves and others.

As much as I'd like to think that "I'm not that kind of guy", maybe they'd still feel that I'd get angry or threatening, or just afraid of hurting my feelings, ego or reputation, and thus said nothing? A lot of people automatically equate sexual violence, assault and rape with physical force alone, but it's only recently that I've begun to consider the co-ercive side to it and the issue of different peoples limits. I guess this is something that most girls are more aware of from, sadly, probably quite a young age, but I suppose you can't be aware of something if you haven't had to experience it or talked about it been thought about it. People still argue about having basic "how you do it" type sex-education in schools, never mind the real issues which people need to consider. The incident I talked about above where I was felt and felt myself to have acted unfairly and ~~xxxxxxx~~ co-ercively brings up another issue. Is there any difference between ~~xxx~~ "convincing" someone to have sex with you and coercing them into it? I know that probably most girls had at some point had sex where they've felt pressured into it and unsure of themselves, and that from a young age each gender is forced into their roles of male as sexual predator and female as prey, and supposed to "guard their chastity" and be a nice pure bride for their husband (who's encouraged to fuck off and "sow" their wild oats). I guess this probably does have an effect on how different people come to regard sex. I don't know. And I guess no matter how "socialised" into your roles you are, you can only challenge them yourself as far as you personally want to and feel comfortable with. So then, I suppose there's no limit at which coercion begins, that any "convincing" at all is or potentially is coercion, Christ... what a minefield. I guess all you can do is tell someone how you feel. Maybe I'll just join in a fuckin monastery.

I was really hurt and angered by this, as were a number of my male & female friends. I felt that some individuals were using it as a "P.C. bombing range" or something. What I mean is that it's a lot easier to say all the right things, portray yourself as "right-on" and be progressive, yet make no actual contribution to the discussion and solving of the problem at hand, than it is to risk saying something very uncomfortable or unpopular that still needs to be addressed. I believe in one respect that this is an issue that is obviously of more concern to women since it is they who are under immediate threat & have to live with this unequal balance of power beneath patriarchy, yet at the same time I believe it to be of just as much relevance to me and other males in the punk (etc) scenes because we all suffer from this situation. I guess that's the part where I get accused of being something-or-other... Don't mistake that I'm saying that males suffer as badly as females from this, it's more that it's something that's in all of our interests to escape and transcend, which I'll come back to a while later. In regard to the difficulties of discussing the issue, I felt that other males were, by some people, disallowed an opinion and automatically looked down upon, which didn't seem to do anyone any good. It just made it far more difficult to address the issues & situation, made people just the same as those who commit sexual assault or rape. No one can deny that there is a huge grey area in terms of peoples different boundaries and limits, which I think is something that needs a lot of attention. It even can't be discussed in an open way without automatic blame and victimisation, then we all lose.

Since this incident I've become more and more aware, sometimes debilitatingly so, of how I relate to women. Just really afraid of acting inappropriately, which I'd ~~xxxxxx~~ rather be than just unaware and "I thought you liked me?", "What's wrong with me?" and other various co-ercion, etc). It's made me really afraid that I'd acted inappropriately in the past, and so I've talked to various ex-girlfriends & sexual

partners about it and been relieved to find that they didn't think that I'd had, except for once in the midst of a long-term relationship. I already knew I'd been unfair by being a horny little bastard trying to convince my girlfriend to have sex with me when she was tired and didn't want to, and I was angry. She was unconvinced and we didn't have sex, which of course I'm really relieved about, that would have been fucking horrible, but it wasn't until I was forced to think about these things in a larger context that I realised that my behaviour had been inappropriate & coercive.. Then again, had I acted inappropriately in other situations, would the girls have felt comfortable in telling me?

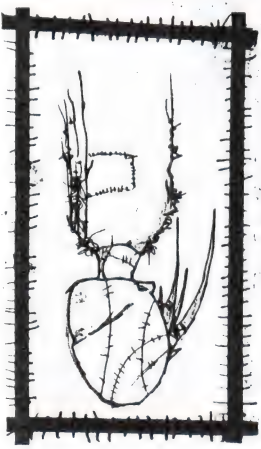


I was surprised, and still am, that in the case of a close friend who was raped and has never confronted the person who did it or told many people about it, she completely, wholly and absolutely does not think of this piece of shit getting away with what he's done, the pain he's caused and damage he's done to my friend and maybe others that I want to smash his fuckin' face in, kick him in the head, pull his fuckin' teeth out with pliers until he feels 1/100th of the pain he's caused and damage he's done. But when I think about it, I guess that were I or someone else to do that, he'd only just take it out on someone else, most likely end up hating women more and blaming them for it, and just do that same thing to someone he thought he could more easily get away with it against. So, I'm not confident that a violent reaction is of much use, and serves only to paper over the overlying problem. These discussions that went on at the time of the incident ~~xxx~~ also



highlighted to me how difficult it is for other guys aswell as myself to talk about these things. I personally found it very hard to say anything ~~xxxxxxxxxxxx~~ "uncomfortable" and felt that I was being judged, with someone ready to jump down my throat, even before I opened my mouth to say anything. I too am aware that this is a threat that women have to deal with and that I can't understand from such a perspective but its something that affects us all and the way ~~xxx~~ we can or cannot relate to one another, and I think its counterproductive to exclude or demean someones contribution (I saw this happen to others more so than personally experienced it) simply because of their gender. At the same time I was really afraid of saying the wrong thing and afraid of alienating the victim, but I don't know how to approach this aspect in particular. I just felt so choked and unsure of myself, just wanted to give my friend a hug and tell her I was sorry, fuck, Jesus, just sorry for the crimes of males in general, but I just didn't want how to say any of it and was pretty sure that she probably didn't want to be hugged or touched in any way by any male....

I think that with this as with allk things the only way it can be approached ~~xx~~ is with complete openness and honesty. Yet when some others involved in the discussion did this they were villianised & disenfranchised from the debate, and were sure to not open their mouths again.



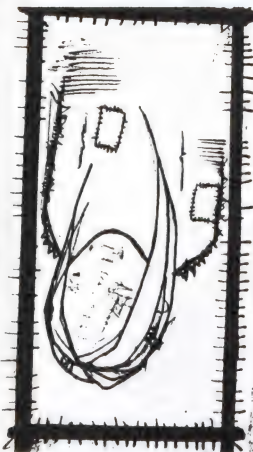
I think he didn't know any of the punk
in the squats before it was squatted, and
since pretty much everyone else there were punk
or into the punk scene, I think he was pretty
intimidated. A lot of people felt him to be
quite authoritarian and were very much intimidated
by him, and I thought since I was already familiar
with his mannerisms I was able to take these
things more easily, I could see how he could be
intimidating and unfriendly to people.
Maybe this explains the behaviour people found
objectionable, or maybe it was an indication of
something darker in his character.

The problem is further exacerbated by the fact that
the vast majority of Dublin non-punk anarchist/
activist community believe him and not
her, I suppose possibly because they didn't know her.

she's a punk and friends with the punk and not them,
and they're friends with the GUY. Again, a number of these
people are trusted friends of mine since a number of
years, which of course makes for very painful and
fucked-up circumstances xxx and inter-realizations all found.

In the end, we all have a pretty clear idea of what happened, but unless
one of the 2 people directly involved says "I've been lying, this is what
happened", then well never know, and that this situation exists in the
anarchist/squatting scene totally fucks my head up.
The possibility of 2 people having different limits and boundaries to
what is acceptable behaviour is something that all happened and has not
since the GUY denies that anything at all happened and is in question, but
we're he to say something like that he went too far, didn't realise what
he was doing was unwanted, or something like this, that would be different
and unrelieved, but as it stands with only denial, a "victim" mentality
and hiding from the situation, well I feel I can't even begin to believe
him.
So since we have no way of solving this issue, all we can do is try to
address the greater issues of gender and the way girls & guys xx relate
to each other in the punk scene.

Well, this incident and all it entails has made me far more aware
of how I relate to women in the punk scene and in general.
Firstly, a number of things became apparent through discussion amongst
individuals and groups about how to deal with the situation. I, as in
sure most others also did, found the whole thing extremely hard to deal
with. As already mentioned, I felt that a lot of people used the
incident as a vehicle for pursuing their own personal vendettas against
the GUY, which I felt obscured and detracted from the real issue at
hand. Then there was the differences in opinion as to what to do about
it. Some girls were in favour of violence, some weren't, some went for
the guys involved. I was convinced after some discussion that it would
do no good and I would only be a male reaction to a male problem.



At this point I want to ask a certain amount of leniency from the reader in relation to all this. I've never written about anything so difficult and so fraught with possibilities for saying the wrong thing. It'd be far easier to not write about this but that's not an option really, so if you have a problem with any of my ideas or opinions on this, talk or write to me rather than just judge & condemn me, please... Since a recent sexual assault incident in the Dublin punk/squatter scene, the theme of gender issues and the way men relate to women has been a constant thread in my mind. There's a lot of inter-related issues within this border theme that I feel need to be addressed, so I'm going to start with this recent incident...

The first problem is that the guy accused of sexually assaulting the girl denies that it happened, so I guess it's more exact to say call it an alleged incident. But even this in & of itself is uncomfortable to me and leads to further problems. This kind of legalistic, "court-room" type language seems to immediately cast doubt on the legitimacy and seriousness of the incident...

I feel trapped. On one side, I think it's completely and wholly necessary to give the victim the benefit of the doubt in cases like this, because so often victims of rape and sexual assault are not taken seriously and at large the majority of women feel doubt & shame in addressing situations in which they feel or have felt threatened by sexual violence be it in lesser or greater forms (I don't mean to demean any of such incidents, but some are worse than others).

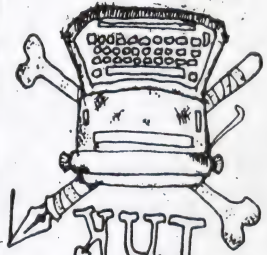
On the other side, this guy who's supposed to have done this is a guy I've known for about 4 years and have worked closely with him in a number of tense, risky situations and become friends, through things like the 68 protests in Genoa, reclaim the streets stuff in Dublin and things in the Magpie House ("squat"). This is a guy who's been very much involved in anarchism & activism in Dublin for a long time, and seemed to be a dedicated & well-grounded anarchist.

As such, it immediately freaks me out that he (presumably) did this and is now able to lie about it, deny it and not take responsibility for his actions, something I never would have expected. At the back of my mind, if it's uncomfortably honest about this, is a feeling of "what if it happened that I was accused of doing something like this and really hadn't done it, how would I feel?" I wish I didn't have such a feeling, but I do, so I can't deny it. As it happens, when it gets to the point of "choosing sides", I believe and support the girl who he seemingly assaulted. I say seemingly because the 2 accounts don't add up, with her account seeming more credible and likely.

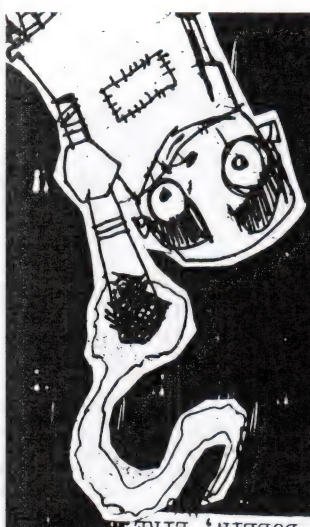
A number of people had had problems with this guy living in the squat, before this incident. At the time of the incident, I felt pretty angry that a number of people used it as a way of venting their own personal dislike of the guy through it.

Yeah! Fuckin crucial spazzed-out punk-rock angreb from 4 snotty wee bastards. Fast, noisy and original sounding, there's 6 songs on this with lyrics on stupid shitty lives, weekend-punks, confusion and the really cool guitar bits, this is just totally punk sounding. I think there's gonna be a 7" out soon on KICK'N PUNCH - Good shit. KICK'N PUNCH RECORDS, address elsewhere.

EASPA MEASA renounce & dethrone demo. Fuckin great, members of Cheapskate, Youth and others playing heavy, epic crust with lots of brooding, building melodic parts. Kind of like parts of ~~XXXXXX~~ jobbykrust, From Ashes Rise & Catharis mixed up with the technical elements of Slint or Botch, in a much less ~~XXXXXX~~ "angular" way. Dual male incarnation of the band Clodagh now mixes harsh screaming with really snarling, snotty singing, contrasted perfectly with Eric's raw-guttural roar. Most of the songs are around 5 minutes or longer, constantly changing and evolving with some totally epic and really memorable instrumental parts. 6 songs with really good lyrics on bullshit tradition, state rule, police authority and injustice, consumerism, war, Ireland's sick policies on abortion and the right to choose. I feel this is somewhat let down by the production/recording, it's nowhere near as powerful and intense as the band are live with a really awful snare drum sound & that's like 2 cocoons being knocked together? Oh, and the packaging is beautiful, it's the best looking CDR I've ever seen, great cover and lyric sheet with extra stickers and so on included. Really powerful, original crustcore, yes!!! EASPA MEASA, c/o Clodagh, 57 Woodview, Lucan, Co. Dublin, Eire



Radical Books & Zines
4 Upper Fownes Street
Temple Bar Dublin 2
Ireland



FINAL Grow strong / empty ?

CRUST PUNK FEST

APRIL 8-10th
BANDS
ACTORS
STANDS

2200 KØBENHAVN N., DENMARK
PLAQUE BEAERREY, PO BOX 604
KRIGER HAR INGEG SJU!!!

The opposite of which is this.
their releases these days,
and putting the proper work into

bands interested in doing demo tapes

Really nice job on the inlay and lyric sheet - not enough



MAKERIDE ..hår bøjlar helvettet demo
9 tracks of fast brutal d-batkt rpunk from members of Aseblá, Uro and others. Really guttural raw vocals that sound like an uglier Bombardieri and some really memorable riffs and great breaks & leads. The songs are all pretty short and to the point, my Swedish doesn't quite compare out the lyrics are about police control and an increasing culture of surveillance, the shittiness of work/life and WAR. I thought that the recording was a little too clean but maybe that's how the band want it to sound.

KICK'N' PUNCH, PO BOX 604, 2200 KØBENHAVN N., DENMARK.

VIAH atatsa mullet demo
5 songs courtesy of a bunch of punk from Denmark, Finland & Ireland. Takes it's influences totally from Propaganda Records Suom & X '83 with a female vocals and BAD ATTITUDES. One of the best shows I've seen in Denmark was VIAH + DISEASE (from Mallorca) here's last October, really anthemic and good with this band!
more recorded and live from this band!

556-0015, JAPAN.

CRUST WARXXX, I+28-3A. SHIKITSU+NISHI 2, NANIMA-KU, OSAKA CITY
personal strength against society & religion. Fuckin ameyzini!
sound, sort of peace-punk style mixed with Discharge. Lyrics about constant little hooks and the vocals are shouty and desperate - is really fucking amazing, both the drums and bass are full of great foreboding, dynamic breaks & instrumental parts, the guitar Japanese punk bands and a totally manic edge. There's some really of Anti-Climax & Amebix and mix it up with the influence of various The songs (2) are layered and complex, to me seem to take elements manage to achieve. The recording and production are just perfect too. is amazing, in a way that so few bands from outside Japan ever totally over-the-top blazing punk-metal. The technical proficiency, slays me from the opening chords right to the last rattling cymbals, Holy fuck! Kamikaze gravecore metal! This is unbelievable, totally



REALITY CRISIS who is your messiah? "
 This is fuckin mental, totally
 first-in-the-air 80's UK punk played by
 spiky Japanese punx. Mostly mid-pace,
 melodic-type riffs played really
 intensely, just really PUNK
 sounding, with one typically
 Japanese sounding gruff singer doing
 deep, hoarse vocals one one with a
 rabid high-pitched voice, and then some
 really weird bizarre singing and
 sort of cackling in the background.
 sometimes?? The title track is
 excellent but the others aren't so great
 start off really good but
 gradually lose their energy or
 something. The lyrics are nuts
 all anti-religion (I think)
 but I can't quite make sense
 of the translations. Anyway,
 good punk but not essential.
 CRUST WAR, address elsewhere.

MARCHY harvest of death "
 This is just fuckin a Discharge
 with Todd from His Hero is gone
 etc doing vocals. Everything,
 from their lyrics, to the break
 solos, structures, artwork,
 even the "BLAH-blah blah
 is totally Discharge, except
 just with those really guttural
 UUUHHHH!! vocals that I fuckin
 love. The lyrics, let's see...
 well, the first song is about war,
 the second song's about war,
 third song, yep, war, but for the
 fourth song they decide to mix it
 after war. Fuckin hell, nahah...
 this is just ridiculous in it's
 Discharge-ness, but fuck it, I lo
 this shit, it's great
 PARMERS IN CRIME, PO BOX 11787,
 PORTLAND, OREGON 97211, USA.

APPENDIX money is not
 my currency LP.
 This compiles both the "Ei raha
 "Hunora" EP from 1983, and the
 R-cords. Classic Finnish
 hardcore, fast, snotty and
 punk as fuck. You look at
 the photos on the inlay and
 it's just mind-blowing how
 young these kids were,
 making this music. Fuck,
 more than 20 years ago! Yes!
 Totally anthemic first-in-the-air
 shit, this makes me want to get drunk,
 like Kateus, Ralskaus. Songs
 on this. If you like punk get
 this or you're not a punk.
 HOHNIE, KUHTRANKE 7, 31555 NEUSTADT, GERMANY.



RECORDS

WORLD BURNS TO DEATH no damn comes 7"
4 songs of raging hardcore with a Japanese flavour from these Texas punx. Really precise & powerful but still dirty and vicious. Fuckin' scorchin' guitars and snarling pissed off ~~xxx~~ vocals spitting out billions lyrics against the violence & hate of the human race. Each of the 4 songs are either explicitly or cryptically concerned with nazi holocaust atrocities and warcrimes. One half of the packaging is ~~xx~~ taken up with a short essay about a particular atrocity perpetrated upon 20 Jewish children & 4 adults by the SS in Hamburg, 1945, which is pretty affecting and sobering. A friend was recently telling me how it pisses him off when there's explanations with punk song lyrics and stuff like this in records but I have to disagree, I think it's a really good idea including stuff like this. Yeah, this is a really good record.

HARDCORE HOLOCAUST, PO BOX 26742, RICHMOND, VA 23261, USA

UNCLE CHARLES in crust we trust 10".
I got this cos of the hilarious cover art, a crucified crusty surfer-
ounded by pigs, nazis, priests, media figures etc, which everyone
me seems to think is totally dumb, but which I think is deadly! So
anyway, the music is actually way better than I was expecting. Really
fast rabid thrashing crust, 3 different vocalists, 1 really harsh gutt-
ural dude, a really pissed-off sounding girl and another hyper-sounding
guy aswell. Most of the songs are Disrupt/Wolfrack styled crustcore
and then a few others that are more mid-paced d-beat rockin' and one
amazing really slow song at the end of side 1 that sounds like Accursed
before ripping into some blastbeat mayhem! Also a Mob47 cover. 14
songs, ~~xxxxx~~ lyrical topics such as laws & the political climate in
Sweden, various fucked-up aspects of society & the punk scene, war,
nazis, nostalgia. Split release between fuckin' 10 labels! Well
worth checking out if you're into your raw crust shit. Some really
excellent ~~xxxxx~~ breaks in the songs and the vocals are really well
arranged, not too much going on as I was afraid of with them having 3
singers. Elements of something like Decrepit in here too.

~~xxxxxx~~ PO BOX 55, 83221 Firsön, SWEDEN.

STATE OF FEAR discography LP
Excellent, been looking forward to this for a while. This compiles
the Wallow in Squalor & State of Fear 7"s (96/95) and the "The tables
will turn" LP (97), 26 tracks in all. Totally pissed off, fist-in-
the-air U.S. crust brutality. This is similar to Disrupt & Destroy
mixed up with a healthy dose of Discharge beats & swaggar, and
stewed in ENT & Napalm Death minus the blastbeats (except very occas-
ionally). This is probably my favourite style of crust,
straight ahead and vicious, goes right for throat, a lot more brutal
and ugly than most of the Tragedy/From ~~XX~~ Ashes Rise type stuff going
on now with plenty of teeth-grinding head-smashing guitar leads, yeah!
Lyrics concerned with environmental destruction, human idioy in gen-
eral, cops, rich fucks, you get the picture. Best stuff for me is the
tracks off the s/t 7" and the LP. If you're at all into ugly, pissed-
off hardcorepunk you should hear this at least a few times.

PROFANE EXISTENCE, PO BOX 8722, MINNEAPOLIS, MN 55408, USA.



SHARPENED KNIVES..

YOU WANT US ALL TO DIE, TO ROT AWAY
TO FADE INTO THE DIRTY AIR
BUT I SAY WE'RE DEAD ALREADY IF WE ACCEPT YOUR WORDS
STILL-BORN INTO THIS DERVISH OF TEARS,
THIS BULLSHIT TRADITION OF CONQUEST & GENOCIDE
THIS HORRIFIC THEATRE WHERE WE SCREAM FROM THE STAGE
DYING BEFORE AN AUDIENCE, WHOSE LAUGHTER SOUNDS LIKE

recently three of us got into an abandoned mental hospital. The building and surrounding grounds are totally hidden from the road by a ten foot wall all around. After clambering over this wall, we descended into a gigantic wasteland. Overgrown and iron supports jutted from cracked concrete like weathered bones of skeletal animals. The building, a huge stone structure, gaping holes and cracks in the masonry, was made totally inaccessible with iron shutters, except for one opening which looked to have been made with heavy tools. We crept towards it, an enormous blackness yawning from the opening. The huge awnings in the stone corridors, we heard a guttural screeching, a threat rasping, trying to roar.. But that's another story, one which will be explored in a new Irish Horror-Punk zine, so I can't say any more.

I felt similar when exploring an abandoned office block surrounded by acres of its own overgrown land. We were hoping that it could be used as an accommodation centre to be squatted for mayday. Travelers had already used the site to park their caravans but had been evicted with massive builders used to block the entrance to the road. It turned out months of kids drinking, drugging and generally smashing the place up beyond recognition, left it pretty useless, although it still had running water. Still it was fun to explore a building that used to be the headquarters of a disgusting, gigantic corporation (Esso/Exxon). I couldn't help but picture hundreds of tents pitched round the patchy grass, vans and trucks parked blaring noses, food being served from the freshly swept wreck of a canteen. Even suburban dumping grounds can inspire dreams.. Experiences like this remind me there is adventure to be had in the city. Anywhere, where there is such a huge amount of people piled together, clambering about, hacking away at each day, trying to forge their own lives out of this heavy, urban disaster..

Sometimes this seemingly malignant and stagnating city creeps behind my eyes and infects me. It invokes such feelings of dread that I find myself seeping into the dead landscape around me. All I want to do is spit, fight and fucking destroy the way I felt when I was 15.. Then I remember the people around me who make it bearable.. who make it interesting. People who continue to inspire me. Like a collective, a squat, or a punk house, it is the people who create what a place is more than anything.. not just the surroundings.

In the city we cannot escape the reality that the state will try to force us to comply, to conform, to accept the brutal injustices it perpetrates in order to sustain itself. They try to bury us in towns & cities so we rot away with everything else and fade to grey. We will always be vermin in their eyes, living off their excess, the scum between the cracks, trying to batter an existence, separate from that stinking society. Strays from the city, existing outside of their dying world

Whenever I come across Wastelands in the city my mind splits in half. One side of me sees decay, filth, the remains of an industrial corpse. It invokes nightmares of roaring chimneys, bellowing black smoke, people scrambling through the debris, horrors unimaginable, urban ghosts and demented souls. Then my mind drifts to scavenging, exploring, something rummaging in it to find something useful. There is so much waste all around us. From the food we skip, to the wood and other materials we find, to abandoned buildings. Its all there for the taking.

I had arrived in tatters, cut up and battered by the city, and in two days I was ready to face all its bitterness again. In the perpetual grey of the city, everything seems complicated, tense & draining. Every inch of me crawls with seething anger sometimes. Unavoidable negativity. Everything seems futile, locked within these walls we have built. Sometimes all it takes is the motivation to crawl away. To escape you can scream so loud those black walls around you shatter, and place you can look at the world from a different perspective, an angle that seemed impossible before.

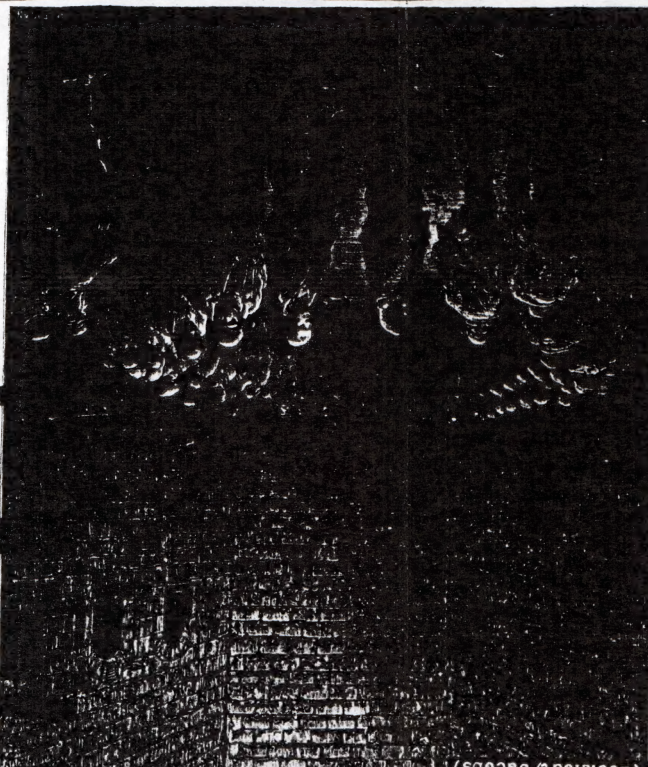
I miles of hanging out of a landrover at high speeds cheered us up no end.



It was like another world grass and forest stretching out around us. Instead of cement and shouting mouths. That night, after a few races down a steep and rocky hill on tricycles with torches taped to our heads, and some vegan pizza, I slept better than I had in months, dreaming of countryside squares instead of police breaking down our barricades. In the middle of the night and evicting our house. After a weekend of walking around the huge wooded valley near the house, swimming in the icy lake, sliding through all the wet leaves and slithering around in the late spring muck, I felt like a different person. It was strange, but liberating to see friends from the city enjoying something so simple and I suppose, pure. And a good few miles of hanging out of a landrover at high speeds cheered us up no end.

After getting back from a short trip to the country with some good friends I realised what an effect the city had been having on me, ripping my head apart. It was an amazing place we were staying. All the hatred and snobism of the city flooded out of me in a matter of minutes. Getting the train there only a short journey of about two hours, had been such a change from my daily battling through Dublin traffic on my bike. Just hopping on watching the sea cliffs go by, dodging the conductor and jumping off just before he got me. Seeing my friends at the house was incredible. The last time I had seen them, they were worn out, tired and depressed from a 3 week eviction of our squat. Now they were sitting outside chopping wood, playing football and baking fuckin pizza!

These cities asphaltize. They crawl through everything. Separated, it seems, only by motorways and pylon fields. They are choking us all slowly. Why are we so spite-filled? Why do individuals feel such resentment to those they have never met? Cramped into this heavy mass of identical houses, petrol stations,



Shopping Centres serve to eradicate this. To eliminate the advantages public space affords those deemed inferior by the State. Places for the homeless to sleep, space to protest, perform, to busk for money, a space for political leafletting, posterings, graffiti, a space for people just to meet and converse as cities that have been cleansed of all traces of conflict or subversion. For that reason other cities have taken them to represent precisely the antithesis of metropolitan downtowns. ("Rybezynski") Once inside the Shopping Centre, like the modern park, people are surveilled and monitored. All activity that does not centre around the consumer orgy is quickly targeted by security &/or the police. These are the new public spaces, privately owned and focussed on nothing but the making of money. Many shopping centres are now being built around a central police/security sub-station, using the same design as the Panopticon prison designed by Jeremy Bentham, this "signals a trend toward militarizing public space that is intimately linked to the privatization process" (Eckhout/Jacobs)

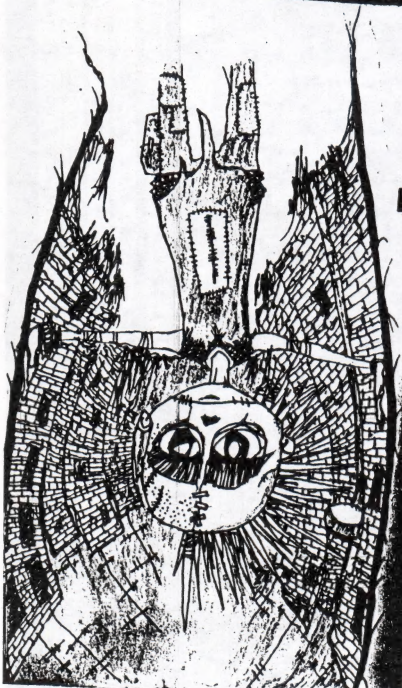
Chimney stacks, smog, that fucking neon light..

I feel totally isolated as everything rushes past me at frantic speed. And now that all this horror has been unveiled, I can't escape it. Saying the same words over and over again like some shit broken toy living in a landfill..

The street systems service cars not pedestrians, or cyclists, articulated lorries hurtling through the town centre on one way roads, surrounded by billboards and concrete.

Only 2 of Dublin cities parks are NOT privately owned. Stephens Green, probably the most central and popular parks in the city, closes its gates at dusk every day to prevent 'undesirables' hanging around drinking, taking smack, mugging people etc. Dusk can be as early as 4 p.m. in winter. This is the same for most parks in the city, meaning that 'once late afternoon comes, so called public space is abruptly altered, confining people to the grey concrete streets. I understand that safety is a concern but I doubt it is the primary concern. We are well able to make a decision to go into a park or not. My fencing off public space people are not given the choice to determine their own boundaries of safety. People are not easier to control out on the neon lit streets than in a park after nightfall. In societal history, most parks were at the disposal of only the upper classes. It was only in the 19th century that they became at the disposal of the general public. However, since then there has been an implicit policy of 'inclusion and exclusion' attributed to parks. We cannot leave by warden and subsequently the police. People have even been escorted out of the park by cops on horseback for juggling, drinking cans etc. People have tried to combat this sterile coercion of public space.

One example is the "Folks Park" in Blagovest Plaza, Copenhagen. Here the residents of the area, in the 1970's, reclaimed a large patch of wasteland in the area and turned it into a park playground for the local community. This served its purpose for many years but riots erupted when police turned up to aid the demolition of the park for a building development. Now only a small defiant section remains, sitting in the middle of one of the most built up areas of the city, a testament to community based direct action and the reclamation of wasted urban space. Similar actions have taken place in Germany, Spain and many other countries. An example of another park which caused such controversy is Tomkins Square park in New York's Lower East side. Between 1988 and '91 the transformation of the area became a national symbol of the struggle against gentrification and homelessness. I feel now, more than ever, that the need for squats, community gardens and other 'liberated' spaces in Dublin, spaces where we can control our own survival and control that Dublin City has become. There are a huge amount of derelict buildings & vacant plots of wasteland who leave them to rot and have new life breathed into them. Shopping centres have become city centres in themselves in Dublin focus every activity towards consumption. Traditionally the city centre was a place that while a commercial centre, also was home to a degree of dissent and individual pursuits.



THIS ZINE HAS TAKEN AGES..BUT HERE IT IS..SPEWED UP ONTO THE BENCH IN MY ROOM, LEAVING PAPER CUTS IN MY GUTS..

I THINK CORMY SUGGESTED DOING A SPLIT-ZINE NEARLY

A YEAR AGO, AMIDST THE CHAOTICS OF THE G.G.I FEST IN WEXFORD

THE IDEA REALLY EXCITED ME BECAUSE I FOUND THE FIRST ISSUE

OF BITE THE HAND..REALLY INSPIRING AND NO.2 HAS CLUNG TO

THE INNARDS OF MY MIND LIKE STICKY GLUE! CORMY HAS BEEN A

GOOD FRIEND FOR A NUMBER OF YEARS NOW & SOMEONE I HAVE ALOT

MEAN ALOT LESS CONTACT BETWEEN US! SO IT WAS GOOD TO WORK ON

SOMETHING TOGETHER EVEN IF WE WERE AT DIFFERENT ENDS OF EUROPE.

WE WANTED THE ZINE TO BE A JOINT EFFORT, NOT JUST TWO SEPARATE

PIECES Juxtaposed WITH ONE ANOTHER SO WE LAID OUT ONE OR TWO

OF EACH OTHERS WRITINGS, DID PICTURES AND WROTE ON SOME SIMILAR THEMES..

IT'S BEEN A HECTIC YEAR IN DUBLIN SINCE LAST SPRING; SQUATS,

SQUAT EVICTIONS, TOTAL MADNESS AROUND MAY DAY, CONFRONTATIONS

WITH SOME OF THE 30,000 POLICE ON THE STREETS THAT WEEK,

NEEDLESS TO SAY OUR SPIRIT TOWARDS THOSE IN POWER GROWS EVER STRONGER..

A HAZY WHIRLING SUMMER OF DRUNKEN NIGHTS, WIERD ADVENTURES,

LOTS OF TRAVELLING WITH OUR BAND IN CLANKY VANS, AND TRIPS

TO VISIT SOME OF THE IRISH EXPORT PUNK AROUND EUROPE..

THE LAST FEW MONTHS THREATENED TO DRAG ME UNDER, LOTS OF

SPITTING, SHOUTING AND WISHING.. WISHING NOVEMBER, DECEMBER,

JANUARY & FEBRUARY WOULD JUST DIE!

BUT THANK TO MY AMAZING PARTNER IN CRIME, &

GOOD FRIENDS WE DRAGGED OURSELVES THROUGH THE SEASONAL

DESPAIR WITHOUT TEARING OUR OWN HEADS OFF..

ANYWAY THE WINTER IS GURGLING ITS DEATH RATTLE, PEOPLE ARE

CLAMBERING BACK UP ONTO THE STREETS AND I FEEL LIKE I CAN

YELL AGAIN WITHOUT GETTING A MOUTHFUL OF PETROL FLAVOURED RAIN.

SO HERES SOME SCRIBBLINGS FROM A

DUBLIN SCUM PUNK

A COPENHAGEN CONTAINER CRUSTY..

YARI eric.

DESPERATE DECAY, THE WILD WILL TAKE ITS VENGEANCE

CONQUEST #17



ON THOSE WHO SOUGHT TO RULE IT.

AND IN THESE FINAL DAYS OF